Roco leads in latest survey; FPJ close behind

Story below, COL. 4

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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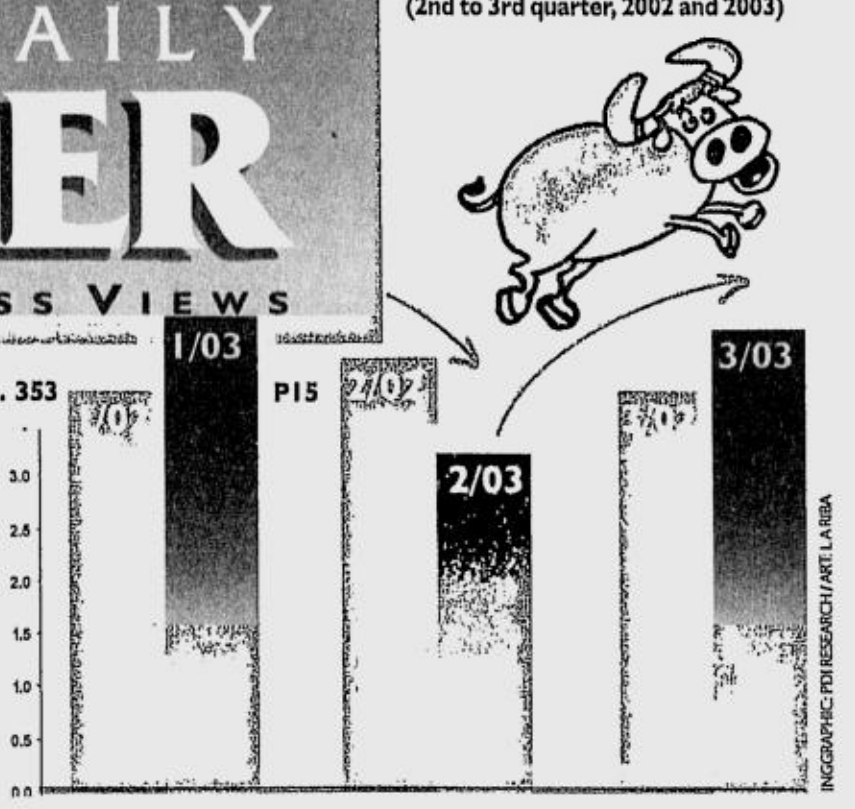


Economy grew 4.4% in 3rd quarter

By Doris C. Dumlao and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE economy grew 4.4 percent in the third quarter, up from 3.8 percent in the same period last year, outperforming more developed economies like those of Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea, officials announced yesterday.

Strong government spending boosted farm and services output that enabled the gross domestic product (GDP) to grow beyond the revised target of 4 percent. GDP refers to the total amount of goods produced and services rendered in the country in a given period. It does not include net factor income from abroad.

Boosted by a 28.4-percent growth in net factor income from abroad as a result of robust remittances from overseas Filipinos, the gross national product (GNP) expanded 5.9 percent in the third quarter. GNP grew 3.1 percent in the same pe-

ECONOMY/ A21

Fear of FPJ drags peso to 55.85:$1

Buenaventura: This all began with mutiny

By Clarissa S. Batino
Business

THE PRESIDENTIAL bid of popular actor Fernando Poe Jr. yesterday spooked Philippine financial markets, pushing the peso to an all-time low of 55.85 to the US dollar and pulling share prices down nearly 2 percent.

Poe's candidacy in the 2004 presidential election, coupled with the warning of the New York-based Moody's Investor Service that the Philippines faced a possible ratings downgrade, heightened fears of investors despite news of a better-than-expected third quarter economic growth of 4.4 percent. *(See story above.)*

Adding to the market worries was the finding of an independent polling group that Poe, a high school dropout with no record of public service, had a fair chance of succeeding President Macapagal-Arroyo and dashing her hopes of winning a fresh six-year term. *(See story at right.)*

According to traders and analysts, there are widespread concerns that a Poe presidency would be similar to the scandal-tainted, mismanaged administration of Joseph Estrada, Poe's best friend and fellow movie actor.

According to them, there are also speculations that Poe is only a front for certain powerful figures in the opposition. *(See related story at left.)*

Astro del Castillo, director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, said Poe's candidacy was a sign of the opposition's desperation which would ultimately hurt the country.

"They are pushing for a candidate who is more popular than credible. The investors will see the Philippine economy as a risk because we want a leader who is popular rather than experienced in handling state affairs," Del Castillo said.

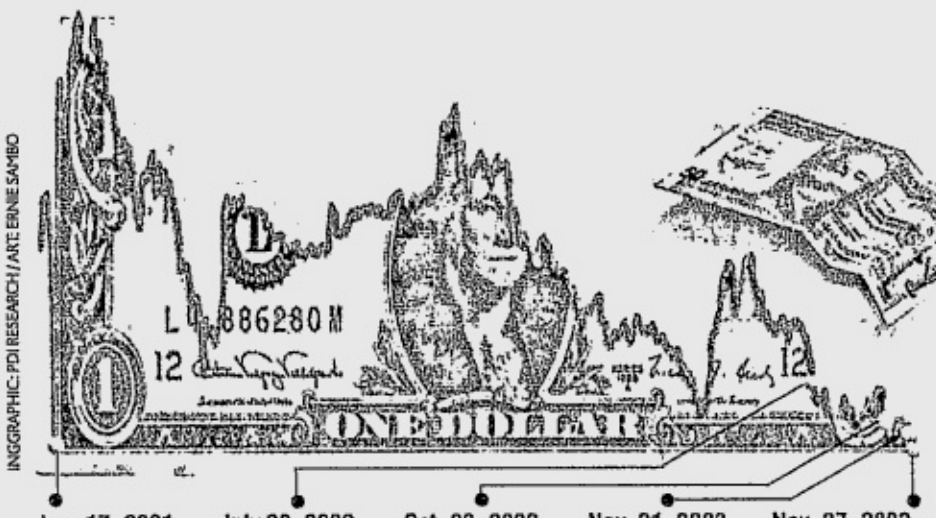
Outgoing Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said investors considered Poe's candidacy "a risk factor."

"His lack of experience and expertise, especially in the economy, worries some people. That is why it is important for the electorate to make an informed decision in May (2004)," Camacho said.

The peso, which closed at 55.53 on Tuesday, opened at 55.80 to the dollar on

FEAR/ A21

DOUBLE whammy. A trader at the Philippine Stock Exchange motions to colleagues the direction the stock market and the peso had taken on Thursday. Analysts attributed the fall to political uncertainties following the announcement of movie star Fernando Poe Jr. that he was seeking the presidency and Moody's plan to downgrade the country's credit rating. AFP



Roco still leading in latest survey; FPJ running close behind

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IN EITHER a three- or four-cornered fight, President Macapagal-Arroyo may lose to former Sen. Raul Roco and actor Fernando Poe Jr. if the presidential election were held today, an independent polling firm said yesterday.

The findings of Pulse Asia Inc. were based on "three most likely scenarios" for the May presidential election in which Roco emerged ahead of the other presidential aspirants.

In a survey conducted nationwide on Nov. 4-17, 1,200 respondents were asked to choose whom they would vote for for President. The first set of candidates presented to them were Roco, Ms Macapagal and Sen. Panfilo Lacson; the second set included Roco, Poe and Ms Macapagal, and the third included all four of them.

Pulse Asia said that if the presidential elections were a three-way fight involving Ms Macapagal, Poe and Roco, "it would be a tight race to the finish between the last two personalities" with Roco getting 35 percent of the votes and Poe receiving 34 percent. Ms Macapagal would get 29 percent.

Because the survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level, Roco

ROCO/ A10

'Kingmaker' Danding behind FPJ, says Imee

By Carlito Pablo and Cynthia D. Balana

"KINGMAKER" Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. was instrumental in Fernando Poe Jr.'s decision to run for president in 2004, according to Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte).

Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition is thus expected to break its alliance with the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats in order to "carry" the united opposition, said the congresswoman who will run for senator under the opposition banner.

She also said efforts were under way to effect a "gentlemen's agreement" between Poe and Sen. Panfilo Lacson of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, so that one of them would serve as the opposition standard-bearer.

Marcos is the eldest child of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, with whom Cojuangco was closely associated.

"Many have said that Ambassador Cojuangco was firmly behind the final decision of FPJ," Marcos said without elaborating in a phone interview.

Asked if the NPC would break its alliance with the ruling party, she said: "[It] will have to."

The NPC's position on the 2004 elections will be known only on Dec. 5, when it holds its national convention.

Party spokesperson Rep. Francis Escudero (Sorsogon) was mum when asked about the matter.

Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio (NPC, South Cotabato) said a number of party leaders were "still silent about their preferences."

"The NPC will follow a process of selection on Dec. 5," she said.

KINGMAKER/ A10

Opposition scrambles to save ranks

By Christine O. Avendaño and Jerry Esplanada

THE OPPOSITION is scrambling to avert a clash between presidential contenders Fernando Poe Jr. and Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson—and a possible defeat in the 2004 polls.

A group of opposition leaders met Wednesday night—hours after the actor, known as "Da King," declared his intention to run and Lacson announced that he would not back down—and formed a five-member committee led by ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile that would thresh out a way to field a "common" candidate.

More importantly, according to Sen. Vicente Sotto III, who represented Poe at the meeting held at the Makati Shangri-La hotel, the committee will "help facilitate a dialogue" between Poe and Lacson.

OPPOSITION/ A21

Green option for students in some colleges

By Volt Contreras

INSTEAD of wearing fatigues once a week, college students will have the option of wearing green starting next year. Environment-friendly green, that is.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources yesterday announced that five colleges in Metro Manila and one in

GREEN/ A10

Biazon bolts LDP, hits confusion

By Dona Pazzibugan and Christine O. Avendaño

A FEW hours before his press conference at the Senate yesterday, opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon told the INQUIRER he was at a crossroads in his political career.

At the briefing, it was clear he had chosen the road less taken. Biazon told reporters he was going on an "indefinite" leave of absence from the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, his party for the last 11 years.

He said he was leaving because he wanted to be free of the "confusion" that was hounding the largest opposition party in the country.

Biazon said nobody in his party knew "up until today" whether the opposition will field a common standard-bearer and what the selection process would be. He also said there wasn't much consultation between party members.

"I don't want to be part of this confusion," the reelectionist senator told reporters. "I am unhappy with the situation of confusion in the party."

Biazon said there was a need to reexamine the country's political culture, which he said was dominated by the four Ps: the politics of popularity, patronage, power and the peso.

BIAZON/ A21

BIAZON: Unhappy

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas will have mostly cloudy skies with rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/28/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FRONTPAGE

Elite force, ₱300M to fight terror

By Carlito Pablo

AMERICAN military advisers have started training a 500-man "elite of the elite" Philippine commando force whose sole mission would be to meet the "clear and present danger" posed to the country by the al-Qaida terrorist network and its Southeast Asian arm, the Jemaah Islamiyah.

At the same time, Speaker Jose de Venecia said the government is putting up P300 million in reward money aimed at breaking the backs of terrorist groups as well as kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

"The country's anti-terrorist operations should be bolstered because the al-Qaida threat is most immediate in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia," De Venecia said.

He said rewards would be given to those who turn in the leaders of terrorist groups and kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

"The rewards will become available effective on Jan. 1," De Venecia said.

The setting up of the dedicated anti-terrorist battalion of Filipino soldiers was a "specific requirement" of the United States government following a top-level security briefing made by Admiral Tom Fargo, commander of the US Pacific Command, in Malacañang, according to Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez (Lakas, Iloilo City).

Gonzalez and De Venecia attended an "urgent" intelligence briefing yesterday given by National Security Adviser Roilo Golez at National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) headquarters in Quezon City. Also present were top military and police intelligence officers.

Gonzalez said that as a warning that terror attacks were imminent, Nica pointed to Nov. 30, Dec. 25 and Dec. 26 as possible target dates for attacks by al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah operatives.

"The briefing was all about the clear and present danger posed by al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah," he said.

Gonzalez said the 500-man anti-terrorist force is being trained in Fort Magsaysay, Nueva Ecija, home of the Special Forces of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"The creation of this force was a specific requirement made by American authorities," Gonzalez said, noting that the US was also providing modern equipment to the force which is composed of three companies.

Fargo had briefed President Macapagal-Arroyo about the al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah threat about two weeks ago, Gonzalez noted.

"This is a continuing threat," he added.

De Venecia asked Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (Lakas, Camarines Sur) to include the P300 million reward money in the final Senate-House bicameral conference committee report on the 2004 General Appropriations Act.

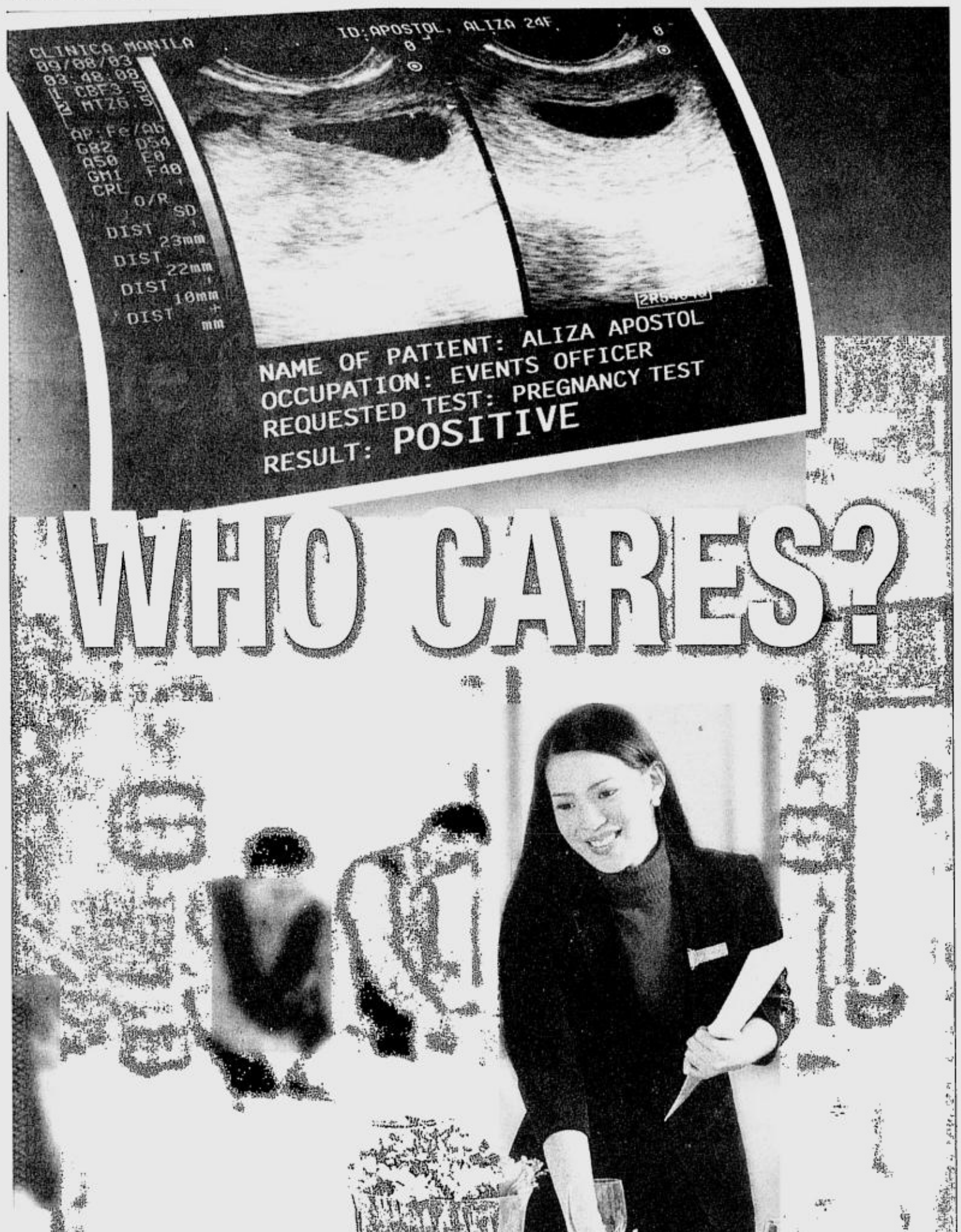
De Venecia said President Macapagal has "taken a courageous initiative in the anti-terrorist campaign in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia, which is much appreciated by the Asean and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation."

Only De Venecia and Gonzalez made it to the briefing called by Nica. Senators Robert Barbers, Juan Flavier and Ramon Magsaysay Jr. were called but they sent representatives instead.

Asked to describe the nature of the summons to the Nica briefing, Gonzalez said: "Well, it was considered urgent."

He said the Jemaah Islamiyah has retained its capability to strike despite the arrest of its top operatives in Southeast Asia.

"It's like an amoeba that multiplies," Gonzalez said.



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Sotto: It's FPJ-Loren

By Michael Lim Ubac

SENATE Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III yesterday confirmed an FPJ-Legarda ticket in 2004 for the opposition—at least the faction led by Sen. Edgardo Angara.

At a press conference, Sotto, Fernando Poe Jr.'s campaign manager, admitted that the actor wanted Sen. Loren Legarda to be his running mate, but the official announcement would have to come from FPJ.

Although there were several proposed candidates for vice president, he said, "on top of the list is Loren Legarda... definitely." Pressed for the other names, his reply was, "Loren, Loren and Loren." He also told reporters to count him out as a candidate.

On Wednesday, Legarda's political strategist, who asked not to be named, confirmed the FPJ-Legarda teamup. The strategist told the INQUIRER that Legarda had accepted Poe's invitation, and that the tandem was "formidable."

Legarda herself has remained non-committal in public so far, except to say "anything is possible in politics."

She welcomed Poe's announcement of his intention to run for president.

"I think that augurs well for our people because it is now clear who are running and what they stand for. I'm not surprised. I knew it was coming," she said.

Blame peso fall on GMA not FPJ, says opposition

By Michael Lim Ubac, Volt Contreras, Armand N. Nocum, Jerome Aning, Juliet Labog-Javellana, Martin P. Marfil, and Nestor Burgos Jr.,
PDI Visayas Bureau

THE MACAPAGAL administration's incompetence, not movie king Fernando Poe Jr., should be blamed for the sharp decline of the peso, according to the actor's campaign manager.

"FPJ is a convenient excuse," Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III said yesterday, protesting news reports that Poe's announcement of his presidential bid had spooked businessmen.

On Wednesday, the day of the announcement, the peso closed at P55.85 to the dollar, down from Tuesday's closing rate of P55.53.

"Why blame FPJ?" Sotto said during a press conference at the Senate. "(He's) not running the government."

Astro del Castillo, director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, said the market had reacted negatively to Poe's announcement because "his winnability is high."

Sotto insisted there were other factors. "The finance secretary just resigned. The peace and order situation is at its worst, and businessmen's children are being kidnapped," he said.

Lawyer Jules Raboca, president of the FPJ for President Movement, said somebody was "manipulating (the peso's performance) so it could be blamed on FPJ." Of all emerging presidential contenders, he said, Poe was the only one "without political baggage and who had not stolen public funds."

Wrong signals

The Partido ng Manggagawa shared this view and predicted that history would repeat itself—Filipinos would go for another actor.

"FPJ may be the least qualified... because of his inexperience in politics, yet his opponents are the least preferred by the masses because they have failed to address the problems of the poor," Rep. Renato Magtubo said.

Leaders of civil society groups warned that Poe's candidacy could send the wrong signals to restive forces in the military.

The influential Konsensyang Pilipino called a meeting yesterday and raised fears that another actor in the picture, and one close to ousted President Joseph Estrada at that, could fuel another coup attempt.

"There are still groups rooting for a military junta, just waiting to see cracks in the democratic system," a KP official told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Formed in 1993, Konsensyang Pilipino has a core group of 80 institutions and organizations, including the Concerned Women of the Philippines, Gomburza, Citizens Action Against Crime, the multi-sectoral Task Force on Electoral Reform, Institute of Politics and Governance, and Never Again Movement.

But Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said FPJ should not be compared to Estrada. During a press conference in his office at the Philippine International Convention Center, Guingona said, "Even identical twins have different inclinations and desires."

Labor Secretary Blas Ople described Poe as a "worthy opponent" for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Mike A was there

Malacañang confirmed that First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was at the Manila Hotel moments before Poe announced his decision.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Arroyo had held "private meetings" at the hotel.

The Palace is said to be unfazed by the actor's popularity, saying Ms Macapagal has the machinery to guarantee her victory.

"We're confident that when... the machinery gets going, the President will have the edge," Housing Secretary Mike Defensor told reporters yesterday.

Bunye brushed aside suggestions that Malacañang had something to do with a rumored investigation of alleged tax evasion by Poe.

Presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao issued a statement denying he had belittled Poe as a "mere actor."

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Strong typhoon coming

A STRONG typhoon is expected to hit the country over the weekend, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) warned yesterday.

Typhoon "Yoyoy" (international name: Lupit), packing winds of up to 205 kilometers per hour and gustiness of up to 255 kph was spotted yesterday afternoon 1,080 km east of the Bicol region. It is moving northwest at a speed of 7 kph.

The northern and eastern portions of Luzon will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with rains today.

Coastal waters will be moderate to rough, with moderate to strong winds blowing from the northeast, the weather bureau said.

The rest of the country will also have partly cloudy skies and isolated rain showers, it added.

Metro Manila is also expected to have partly cloudy skies with scattered rain showers. Manila Bay will be slight to moderate, Pagasa said.

Yoyoy is expected to be 990 km east northeast of Aurora province by tomorrow morning.

Norman Bordadora

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Per DTI-NCR permit no. 3449 series of 2003

'Where did you graduate' question a no-no

EMPLOYERS, trade union leaders and a labor official were one yesterday in saying that there were good Philippine laws against discrimination but the problems lay in their enforcement.

Speakers at yesterday's launching of the International Labor Office's global report on "Time for Equality at Work" warned about new forms of discrimination which have emerged in recent years.

Some of these forms have been observed in the Philippines, they said, including discrimination against graduates of schools other than the country's top four universities, and prejudice against AIDS/HIV-positive workers and an aging work force.

On merit

"This is entry-point discrimination. What (employers) need to look at is the capacity, capability and merit, not the other considerations [like where an applicant graduated] ... there should be no discrimination based on schools," said Werner Konrad Blenk, ILO regional director for Southeast Asia, when asked about want ads that can be seen in almost all the daily newspapers looking for graduates from select schools.

The Philippines, Blenk said, has made considerable progress against discrimination, citing its treatment of migrant workers. This, he added, was being copied by other countries.

He said, however, that it was implementation that needed to be "improved."

This was echoed by Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair Miguel Varela, Trade Union Philippines and Allied Services Vladimir Tupas, Federation of Free Workers' Allan Montano and Labor Undersecretary Josephus Jimenez.

AIDS bias

For his part, anti-AIDS advocate Joshua Formentera said his group has monitored instances of discrimination because of the dreaded disease.

In one case, he said, a seaman was not allowed to leave the country after rumors spread that he had the virus and he was told to have himself examined.

In some instances, AIDS victims have been forced to resign from their jobs while others were not hired, he said.

Formentera said about 1,868 Filipinos are afflicted with AIDS and about 40 percent of them are overseas workers who have not received any benefits from the overseas workers' groups that are supposed to help them. *Martin P Marfil*

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Copa chair, 8 members quit group

By Alcuin Papa

COUNCIL on Philippine Affairs (Copa) chair Billy Esposo and eight other members resigned from the group yesterday but denied their departure had anything to do with fellow member Jose "Peping" Cojuangco's expressed support for actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s presidential bid.

Esposo said they left in order to concentrate on projects related to economic development in the grassroots level.

In a letter sent to other Copa members, the nine "resignees" said they were "pursuing new horizons in combating the same (old) dragons" in Philippine society.

The eight others were Dave Arcenas, Copa secretary; founding members Julio Rey Hidalgo and Pacita Montinola and members Vince Pacheco, Macie Imperial, Eros Kaw, Louie Kierulf and Ed Samaniego.

Esposo said Copa treasurer Nick Locsin and founding member Steve Legasto intended to resign as well.

"By no means does this move indicate acquiescence to the evil dragons of corruption, poverty, bad governance, narco-politics, military adventurism, the information and education gaps ... which Copa has so staunchly fought against," Esposo said.

He clarified that their resignations were not in any way "prompted by conflicting political agenda, specifically in relation to the 2004 elections."

Last week, former Tarlac congressman Cojuangco was quoted as saying he was keen on supporting Poe for president in 2004. An insider told the INQUIRER that this did not sit well with some Copa members.

Esposo later said Cojuangco's move did not mean the whole of Copa was backing the actor. "Copa remains non-partisan but members, as individuals, are free to support anyone," he said.

Specifically, Esposo said, he and the eight others "would now like to be more involved in making positive change from the grassroots by exploring models of successful community development projects."

Some of the projects they were interested in, he said, were the Focolare Movement's Economy of Communion, the Couples for Christ's "Gawad Kalinga" program and the Bayanihan Enterprise Development.

Copa secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon could not be reached for comment.

Organized on July 30, 1999, Copa was one of the groups that spearheaded the campaign to oust former President Joseph Estrada.

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Per DT I-NCR Permit No. A2 - 489 Series of 2003

Mar riles Taiwanese

TAIWAN officials in Manila expressed their displeasure at the "snub" by Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas of the opening yesterday of an annual Taiwanese trade exhibit at the World Trade Center.

This as Taiwan's minister of economic affairs arrived in the Philippines for talks to strengthen trade and investment ties.

Lin Yi-Fu, accompanied by a delegation of officials and businessmen, was to meet with more than 100 Taiwanese investors in the Philippines later Thursday.

On Friday, he will hold talks with Roxas at the start of the two-day 11th Philippines-Taiwan Joint Economic Conference.

The annual meeting aims to enhance ties between the two Asian neighbors and will cover cooperation in trade, agriculture, science, labor and tourism.

But Andrew Chang, deputy chief of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, told reporters he was "frustrated and angry" that Roxas canceled his attendance at the opening Thursday of the trade exhibit due to other engagements.

The Taipei office is Taiwan's de facto embassy since the two countries have no official diplomatic ties after the Philippines adopted a one-China policy that recognizes the mainland's sovereignty over the self-governed island.

"For all the time, money and manpower we're pouring in this event, we didn't get the full support of the Philippine government," Chang said.

Philippine officials have been careful not to be seen as being close to the Taiwanese to avoid the ire of Beijing, which strongly objects to any gesture that enhances the international legitimacy of the Taiwanese government. *AP*

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Gov't wants judge off Imelda cases

GOVERNMENT prosecutors have asked the Court of Appeals to bar a Manila judge from hearing the dollar-salting cases against former first lady Imelda Marcos due to his alleged bias for her.

They noted, among other things, that the judge had allowed Imelda to travel to London during her last foreign trip despite restrictions on her itinerary set by the Sandiganbayan.

In a 51-page memorandum, the prosecutors asked the CA to bar Judge Oscar Barrientos, presiding judge of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 26, from hearing the 33 dollar-salting cases against Imelda, the late Roberto Benedicto, a crony of her late husband's, the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, and one Hector T. Rivera.

Ironically, Barrientos is a candidate for one of the vacant seats in the Court of Appeals.

The government initially asked Barrientos to inhibit himself from the case after it learned that he had worked as a manager under Benedicto at the Philippine National Bank-Republic Bank. The judge denied the government's motion.

Prosecutors filed a motion for reconsideration but Barrientos threw it out. The government decided to appeal to the CA.

The prosecutors said one of the instances Barrientos showed his bias was when he allowed Imelda on Oct. 2 to fly to London when she had only been given permission by the Sandiganbayan to travel to the United States, France, Portugal and Italy.

"It is beyond one's comprehension what actually prompted (Barrientos) to allow Marcos to gallivant to London ... when the latter had not asked for it in her (motion)," the prosecutors said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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Seamen's kin sue for donations

MIAMI—The families of Filipino sailors killed in a boiler explosion on the cruise ship Norway are suing the ship's owner for charitable donations collected for the victims but not given to them.

Norwegian Cruise Line said it had collected $350,000 two months after the explosion, which left eight crew members dead and 18 injured when the ship was docked in Miami on May 25.

But William Huggett, representing the dead and injured crewmen, said Wednesday the families who filed wrongful death and damage suits "have not received one penny."

He sued Tuesday in state court for a share of the donated money, which he said had come largely from fellow employees.

Norwegian's attorney Curtis Mase said Tuesday it was like suing United Way for a portion of its donations and that it wasn't up to Huggett to decide how to spend the money.

The cruise line said last summer that a board had been created to decide how to distribute the donations, and scholarships and vacations would probably be funded.

The Miami-based cruise line used its own money to pay crew members' funeral expenses and fly relatives of hospitalized workers to Miami in the days after the shipboard blast. *AP*

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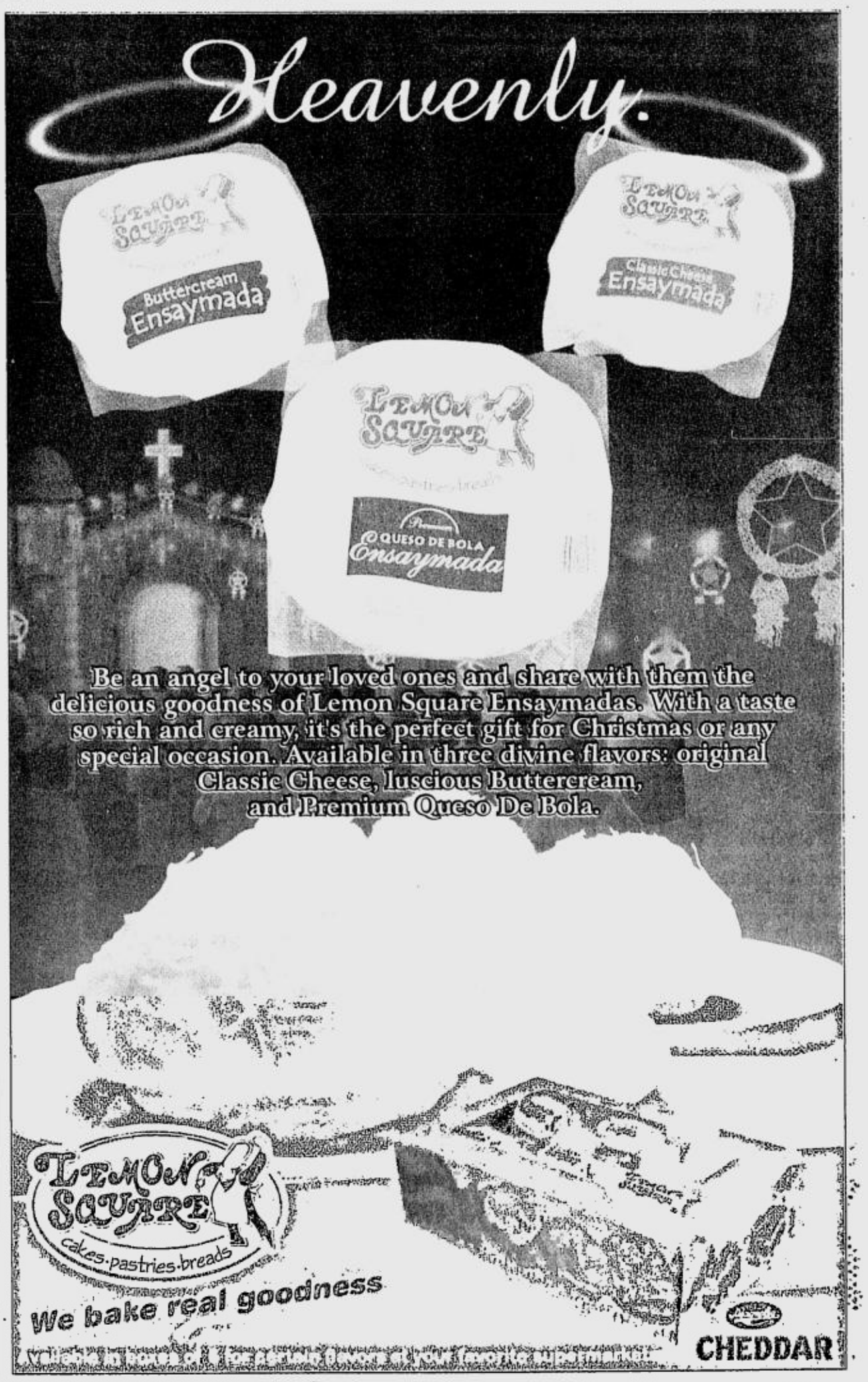


The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Italy's Baghdad Embassy attacked

BAGHDAD—Italy's Baghdad Embassy was attacked late on Wednesday, the Italian news agency Ansa said, two weeks after 19 Italians died in a suicide blast in southern Iraq in Italy's worst military death toll since World War Two.

Ansa said a rocket or mortar round hit the second floor of the embassy shortly before midnight, causing structural damage but no injuries.

Last week, the US military said they found several rockets stashed in a street near the embassy, which has been under high alert since 19 Italians died in the Nov. 12 suicide bomb attack on a Carabinieri military police barracks in the southern city of Nassiriya.

There have been a number of rocket and mortar attacks in central Baghdad in recent weeks, most of them aimed at the sprawling compound housing the US-led coalition administration.

Rockets hit the compound on Tuesday, but a US military spokesperson said no one was hurt.

In Washington, the Pentagon said it would send thousands more Marines to Iraq next year, bolstering the next wave of US troops being deployed amid an increasingly bloody guerrilla war.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld ordered the Marine Corps to send three additional battalions of around 900 troops each, along with assorted support units, as part of the troop rotation plan for early 2004, officials said.

Pentagon planners said on Nov. 6 that Washington envisaged 105,000 troops in Iraq by next May, down from the current 130,000. But the additional Marines will push the total up again.

At the United Nations, diplomats said it was unlikely a new UN Security Council resolution sought by US-appointed interim Iraqi leaders would be put forward before March.

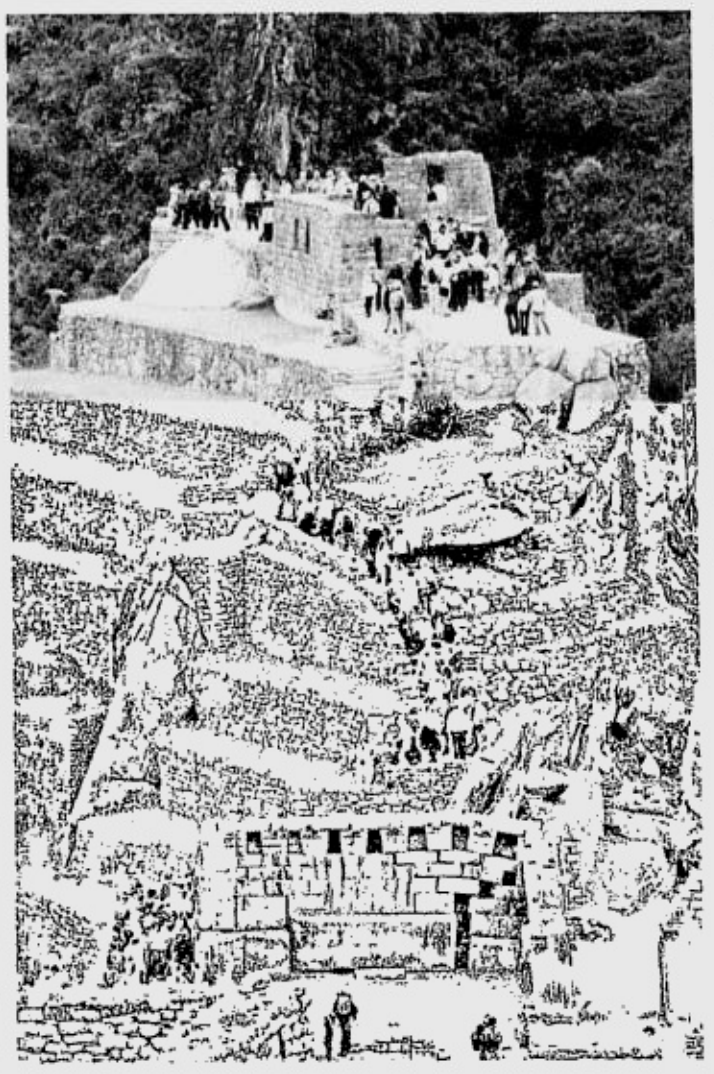
The United States and close ally Britain had considered but not yet drafted a resolution welcoming a US-Iraqi timetable leading to a new ratified constitution and an elected federal government by the end of 2005.

Diplomats said Washington was in no mood to bargain over a new measure with anti-war opponents Russia, France and Germany.

Washington also faces problems with Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority after its top religious authority criticized plans for the transfer of power to Iraqis.

Resistance from the cleric, Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, could lead to rejection by many of the Shiites, who make up 60 percent of Iraq's population. But Sistani appeared to have stopped short of an outright rejection of the program.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, speaking hours after guerrillas fired rocket at the coalition compound where he was staying on Tuesday night, said plans for the transfer of power by next July and elections by the end of 2005 would only improve security. *Reuters*



BESIEGED
Hundreds of tourists climb up and around Peru's mystic Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, near Cuzco, on Nov. 11. Unbridled growth in tourism is irrevocably damaging the United Nations World Heritage Site and its surrounding attractions, destroying one of the world's premier archeological sites, some planners say. REUTERS

UN watchdog condemns Iran nuke program

VIENNA—The UN nuclear watchdog condemned Iran Wednesday for nearly two decades of covert nuclear activities and warned against future breaches of non-proliferation obligations in a compromise resolution that both the United States and Iran claimed as a victory.

The White House said the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) board of governors had expressed the world's "serious concerns" about Tehran's atomic ambitions, which Washington says are directed at developing nuclear weapons.

The resolution that was adopted by the 35-nation board in Vienna was a compromise between the US call to condemn Iran for 18 years of hiding sensitive atomic research and demands from Britain, France and Germany that Iran be rewarded for cooperating since October with the IAEA.

The United States feels the resolution "underscores... the urgent requirement of Iran to come into full compliance with nuclear non-proliferation obligations," spokesperson Claire Buchan told reporters from Crawford, Texas, where US President George W. Bush was spending the Thanksgiving holiday weekend on his ranch.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei said the board "was sending a serious and ominous message that failures (to comply) in the future will not be tolerated."

The resolution said any further Iranian breaches of non-proliferation would be met by stern action from the IAEA's board of governors using "all options at its disposal."

But it did not mention the most dramatic of these options, taking Iran to the UN Security Council to face possible sanctions.

This led Iran to hail the text as a diplomatic victory, saying that it showed that Tehran had been honest about its nuclear program despite "the uproar from certain oppressive circles" in reference to the US push for a tougher response.

In Tehran, foreign ministry spokesperson Hamid Reza Asefi said the text "shows that Iran has carried out its civilian nuclear activities honestly and transparently, and... has not sought to manufacture a nuclear weapon." *AFP*

CIA secretly using guns-for-hire to pursue terrorists

By John J. Lumpkin

WASHINGTON — The recent deaths of two paramilitary operatives tracking terrorists in Afghanistan opened a small window into one of the CIA's secret methods in fighting the war on terror: using guns-for-hire.

The agency has turned more frequently to contractors—often retired Green Berets or Navy SEALs—as it has worked to rapidly expand its covert paramilitary force, boosted by a big increase in funding in the two years since the Sept. 11 attacks.

William Carlson and Christopher Glenn Mueller were retired military commandos hired by the CIA as contractors to hunt al-Qaida and Taliban fighters near Shkin, in the wilds of eastern Afghanistan. They died Oct. 25 when they were ambushed while taking part in a larger military offensive in the area.

It appears they were hired by the CIA during the rapid growth of the agency's covert paramilitary force after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. They were among an undisclosed number of former special operators hired to augment the CIA's own employees.

Johnny "Mike" Spann, the first American killed in combat in Afghanistan, in November 2001, was one such CIA employee. The size of the agency's paramilitary force remains classified.

The CIA acknowledged Carlson and Mueller's deaths and their ties to the agency in a statement three days after the shooting. Carlson, 43, and Mueller, 32, "were no strangers to the hardships of service to country," said CIA Director George J. Tenet. Carlson was retired from Army special operations and Mueller from Navy special operations.

The two "were tracking terrorists operating in the region," the CIA said. But it offered few details about the shooting or the men's activities in Afghanistan.

Hiring contractors to boost the paramilitary force gives both the CIA and the individuals who are hired more flexibility, according to intelligence experts outside the agency. The operators can accept short-term assignments, and then go home to their families when they are finished.

On the CIA's part, the current heavy use of contractors is probably a product of the large, one-time cash infusion the agency is receiving from Congress to fight the war on terrorism, said Steven Aftergood, an intelligence expert with the watchdog Federation of American Scientists in Washington.

"All indications are that reliance on contractors is growing," Aftergood said. "What do you do if somebody drops hundreds of millions of dollars in your lap? You hire contractors on a short-term basis. You have no assurance it will be part of your budget next year." *AP*

Instant orgasm, anyone?

PARIS—US doctors are casting around for female volunteers to test an "Orgasmatron," an implanted device that will trigger instant ecstasy, the weekly British magazine New Scientist reports in next Saturday's issue.

The innovation was accidentally discovered more than two years ago, when a surgeon conducted a routine pain-relief operation on a woman.

The procedure entails inserting two electrodes into spine and applying tiny pulses of electricity. Patients are conscious throughout the operation so that they can say when they feel less pain.

In this case, the woman had a spontaneous orgasm, and that prompted the surgeon, pain specialist Stuart Meloy, to take the idea further. *AFP*

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Jacko praised by alleged victim in tape, say media

WASHINGTON—Michael Jackson's alleged 12-year-old victim and his mother made an audiotape earlier this year praising the superstar and signed affidavits clearing Jackson of inappropriate behavior, US media said Thursday.

The alleged audiotape and affidavit were made in February by Jackson's handlers after the singer admitted in a British documentary that he shared his bed with boys, New York's Daily News said.

Jackson, 45, turned himself into police in Santa Barbara, California, a week ago on "multiple charges" of abusing a child, reportedly a 12-year-old boy who has survived a battle with cancer.

Jackson, who faces an arraignment Dec. 15-18, has dismissed the accusations as a "big lie," and his lawyer has suggested the motive behind them is greed, as people try to use the star like "a lottery ticket" in a bid to cash in on his fortune.

The Daily News said the tapes and affidavits were made after the alleged victim's mother went to Jackson's Neverland ranch, near Santa Barbara, to complain about the footage of her son in the British documentary.

A source close to the alleged victim's family said Jackson was worried and tried to send the family out of the country or to keep them at his ranch. "They told them they had to stay (at Neverland)," the source said. "They didn't feel they could leave."

An investigator working for Jackson then came up with the idea of recording the boy and his mother as they talked about Jackson, and having them sign an affidavit clearing Jackson of any wrongdoing.

A CNN reporter who heard the 20-minute recording said the alleged victim and his mother said God had blessed them to have Jackson in their lives and that at all times the singer never acted inappropriately toward the boy.

A lawyer consulted by CNN said the alleged victim's comments and affidavit, if proven authentic, could pose difficulties to prosecutors in case Jackson goes on trial—if convicted he could spend eight years behind bars for each count of child molestation against him. *AFP*

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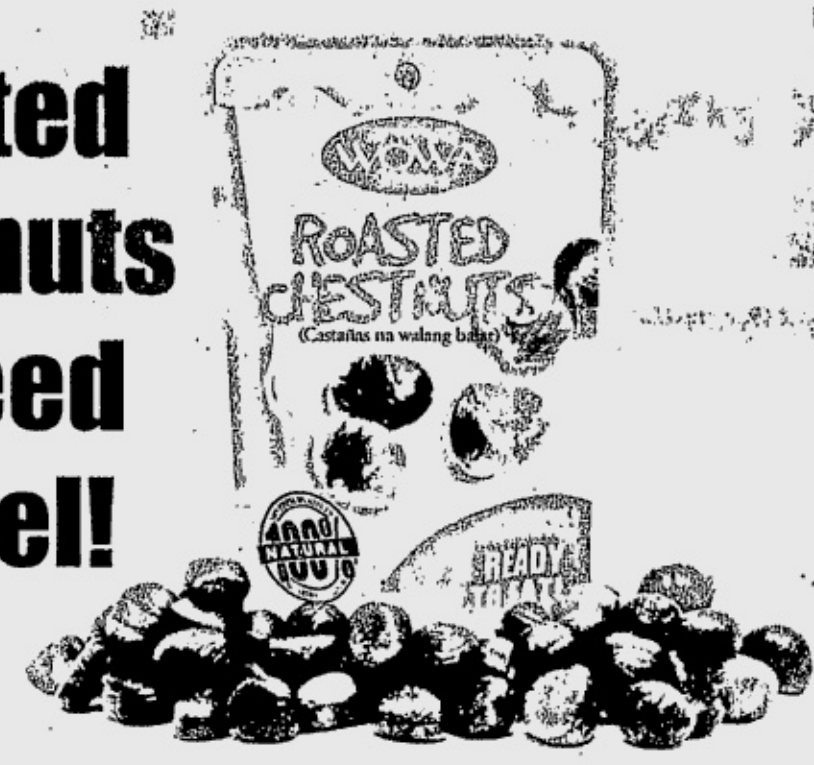

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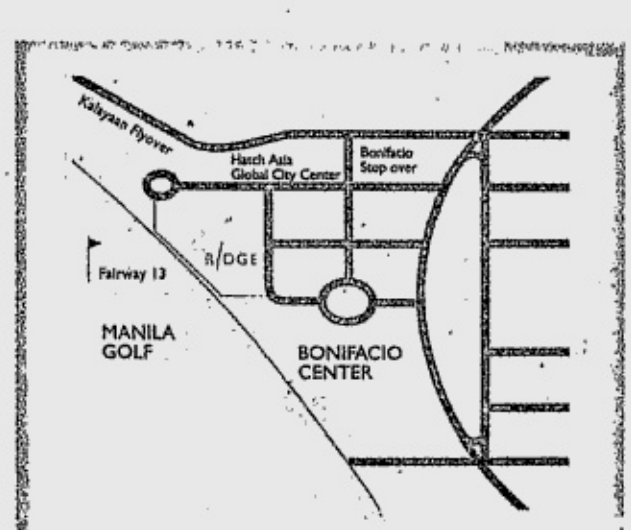

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Roco still leads in latest polls; FPJ running close behind

From page A1

and Poe can be considered tied in first place in this scenario.

If Roco, Poe and Ms Macapagal joined the contest along with Lacson, Pulse Asia said Roco would still be ahead with 30 percent of the votes. Ms Macapagal's aides could take comfort in the fact that she and Poe would get the same 28 percent that would place Roco within striking distance.

Lacson, the first presidential aspirant to declare he was running, would get only 12 percent.

Pulse Asia pointed out that at the time the survey was conducted, Poe had not announced that he was running for president.

It said that in two of the three most likely scenarios, the survey indicated a close fight among the contenders.

Clear winner

"Should the May 2004 elections see the participation of only three presidential aspirants, namely, President Macapagal-Arroyo, Senator Lacson and former Secretary Roco, the latter would emerge as the clear winner with 40 percent of the voters picking him as their bet.

In this scenario, the President would be a distant second as she would obtain 33 percent of the votes cast while the legislator (Lacson) would enjoy the support of 23 percent of the voters," Pulse Asia said.

"Across all three scenarios, former Secretary Roco is the presidential candidate most supported by Metro Manilans, those from Luzon, in the best-off Class ABC, and in the most numerous Class D," Pulse Asia executive director Ana Maria Tabunda said in a statement.

Pulse Asia said the Visayas would be most supportive of Ms Macapagal regardless of who her rivals are. Mindanaoans are supportive of her too, but only if she is up against everybody except Poe.

"However, if the presidential election involved only the President, former Secretary Roco and movie star Poe, Mindanaoans would be most supportive of the latter (Poe)," the polling group said. Even with Lacson, Mindanaoans would go for Poe, it added.

Pulse Asia said those in Classes ABC and D were "most supportive" of Roco across all three sets of presidential candidates.

"In the case of the poorest Filipinos, they are most supportive of the President only if she is running against former Secretary Roco and Senator Lacson. However, if the President would contest the top post against (Roco) and (Poe), the latter (Poe) would enjoy the highest level of support from those in Class E," it said.

In the case of a four-way fight, the poorest Class E would be "equally supportive of the movie personality and the incumbent President," Pulse Asia said.

Eight candidates

The survey showed that Ms Macapagal could win if the votes were spread among eight candidates. Pulse Asia's 5-page media release included in its last two pages a report saying Ms Macapagal "leads seven other presidentiables (sic) for the May 2004 elections."

"Despite the many political, economic and social problems besetting her administration, it appears that President Macapagal-Arroyo continues to enjoy the support of a considerable proportion of the general public," the polling firm said.

It said that if elections were held today and Ms Macapagal was contesting the presidency against seven other candidates, she would win with a quarter of the votes.

The accompanying table titled "2004 elections: first choice presidential preferences" showed that the respondents were asked: "Of the people on this list, whom would you vote for as president of the Philippines if the elections were held today and they were presidential candidates?"

Cojuangco, Davide

Listed were Ms Macapagal, who got 24 percent; Sen. Noli de Castro, 21 percent; Roco, 20 percent; Poe, 19; Lacson, 8 percent; businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, 2 percent; Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., 2 percent, and Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., 1 percent.

De Castro, Cojuangco, Davide and Pimentel are not declared aspirants for the presidency. Cojuangco once entertained the thought but he said recently he was not going to run, while De Castro was being wooed to be Ms Macapagal's running mate.

At his briefing, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye began by announcing that the latest Pulse Asia survey found that the President would lead seven other candidates if elections were held today. He said Malacañang released copies of the survey results to reporters.

When told that the survey showed the President was in fact losing to Roco and even to Poe in what Pulse Asia billed as the "three most likely scenarios," Bunye said the survey results were "self-explanatory and you can draw your own conclusions."

"I would like to give more emphasis on what is stated in the cover letter, and Pulse Asia said that if elections were held today, the President will lead all other presidential contenders," Bunye said. He admitted that this information was "on the back (page), yes."

Asked why Malacañang released the survey when the President had been claiming she did not want to talk politics, Bunye said: "I believe this should be something of interest to the members of the Malacañang Press Corps. This is informational material."

Housing Secretary Mike Defensor dropped by the Malacañang press office to stress that the survey was good for the President.

"It shows that even against popular candidates like De Castro and (Poe), the President will have the edge," he said.

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'Kingmaker' Danding behind FPJ . . .

From page A1

Marcos said the task of uniting the opposition could lie with the NPC.

"*Watak-watak* (fragmented)" was how she described the LDP, whose president Sen. Edgardo Angara and ally Sen. Vicente Sotto III are rooting for Poe.

Lacson has crossed swords with Angara and Sotto over the selection process for the LDP candidate for president.

Marcos said Angara needed to sort out his differences with Lacson and with the Zamora brothers, Rep. Ronaldo Zamora (PnM, San Juan), Lacson's campaign manager, and banker Manuel Zamora.

Asked whom she would support, Marcos said: "Whoever will be chosen by the united opposition."

Some NPC members like Rep. Harry Angping (Manila) and Rep. Georgidi Aggabao (Isabela) have been vocal about their support for Poe.

Angping said the party would back the popular actor known as "Da King."

Aggabao said Poe might be inexperienced, but was "upright," had his heart "in the right place," and was "worth considering for president."

Divided

Poe's declaration that he will run for president in 2004 has further divided the House of Representatives.

Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez said the actor's candidacy was an insult to the people's intelligence.

"All I can say for the moment is: God save the Philippines!" he said.

But Rep. Prospero Pichay (Surigao del Sur) and Rep. Augusto Syjuco (Iloilo), both members of Lakas, said Poe's candidacy would only enhance the "winnability" of President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose "victory," they said, was a cinch in view of "her good governance and the equity-of-the-incumbent rule."

On the other hand, representatives of party-list groups warned of massive cheating by the President's camp, purportedly to stop Poe's victory at the polls.

Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo said that given a choice of all "evil" presidential candidates, the masses would go for the "lesser evil" that was Poe.

He predicted that Poe would garner the highest number of votes among the masses because the actor was not a traditional politician.

"History will repeat itself," Magtubo said. "The masses will pick an actor—even with his questionable capacity to run the country—instead of supporting traditional politicians with pro-elite and anti-poor track records."

Sanlakas Rep. Jose Virgilio Bautista said the President's camp could plot scenarios and employ schemes to thwart Poe's victory.

"GMA, the reigning queen, will not simply concede her throne to Da King," Bautista said. "Because of GMA's obvious greed for power, come hell and high water, she will do everything to prevent FPJ and other rivals from taking over Malacañang." "Worse, she can do a Marcos by placing the entire nation under martial law," Bautista said, adding: "It will be remembered that the late dictator aborted the 1973 elections by declaring elections in 1972."

Brainwashed

Gonzalez said the politicians responsible for Poe's decision to run for president could not offer anything of value to the country. This was why they "brainwashed" the actor into making the decision, he said.

He also said these politicians were fooling the people because they were presenting a candidate without experience in governance and mental competence.

"Will the nation buy this kind of candidate, and entrust the fate of 82 million Filipinos to a candidate who will surely be used by self-seeking politicians and sycophants because he will surely be overwhelmed by the complexities of national governance?" Gonzalez said. "Are our people so naive and so hopeless to accept FPJ, whose record in public service is zero?"

Bautista said his group would first want to see Poe's program of government as well as those of the other presidential candidates to determine their responsiveness to the needs of the masses.

According to Magtubo, Poe may be the least qualified among the contenders because of his lack of experience in politics. And yet, the lawmaker said, the others were the least preferred by the masses because they had failed to address such problems as unemployment, low wages and high cost of living.

"The masses have judged elite politicians as evil personified," Magtubo said. "And in the choice among 'lessers'—between the least qualified and the least preferred—the masses will certainly choose FPJ."

Numbers game

In a statement, Pichay and Syjuco said the more candidates, the better for Ms Macapagal.

"It's a numbers game. The more, the better for the President, who enjoys popular backing because of her proven leadership, performance and program of government," Pichay said.

He added that in view of the equity-of-the-incumbent rule, the President had a 30-percent advantage over her opponents because of her machinery and political and business network.

Syjuco said Poe's entry into the presidential race had only highlighted Ms Macapagal's qualifications, experience and firmness of character.

"The President sparkles as the precious jewel surrounded by semi-precious settings," Syjuco said, adding:

"It has been obvious to us in Lakas that Poe would run, and we welcome his long-overdue announcement. This makes the inevitable victory of our President unquestionably apparent to one and all."

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Green option for students . . .

From page A1

each region would serve as pilot areas for "Project Eco-Corps," a program to turn students into agents of ecological protection.

The elective is for those college students who don't like the idea of undergoing military training or alternative forms of community service that the law requires them to take.

Eco-Corps stands for Environment Conservation through Citizens Organized Participation and Support.

DENR Secretary Elisea Gozun said a syllabus would be drafted to include subjects on pollution control, solid waste management, chemical and hazardous wastes, forest and biodiversity conservation, among others.

"The government needs all the help it could get from the citizenry considering the gravity of our environmental problems, and the youth provides the most potent force both in terms of number and idealism to turn the tide of environmental destruction," Gozun said.

The course will be incorporated in the National Service Training Program, which under Republic Act No. 9163 requires college students, for two semesters to train as reserved military officers, render community service, or serve as literacy trainers in the locality.

In the capital, Project Eco-Corps will initially be tested at the University of Sto. Tomas, the Rizal Technological University, the Philippine School of Business Administration, New Era University, and AMA University, starting in the summer of 2004.

Beginning with this trial period, Gozun said, the DENR hopes to form college students into a "pool of extension workers" for the department's projects.

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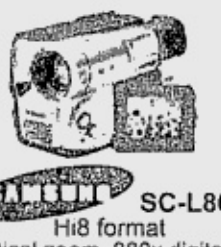

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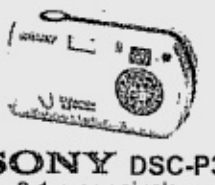

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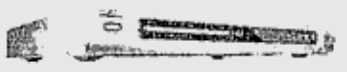

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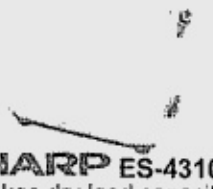

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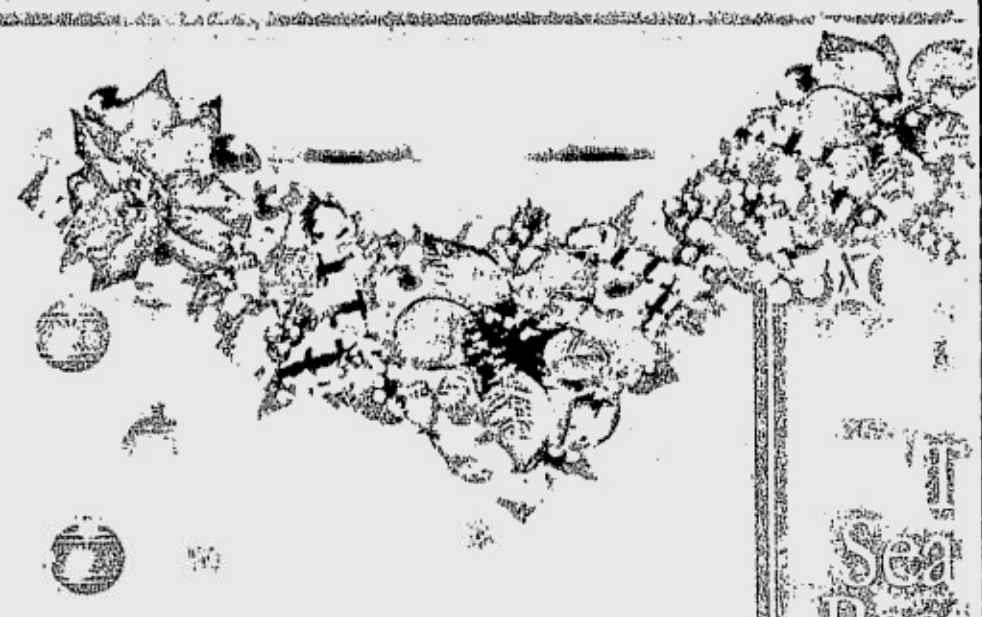
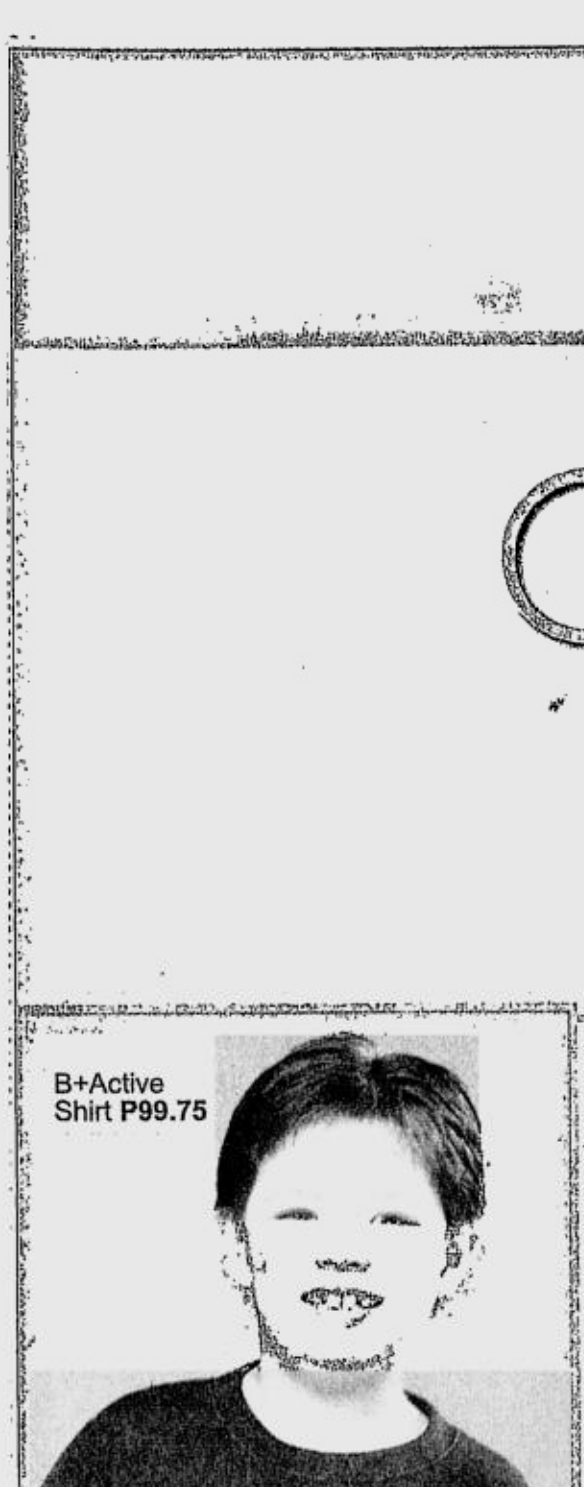
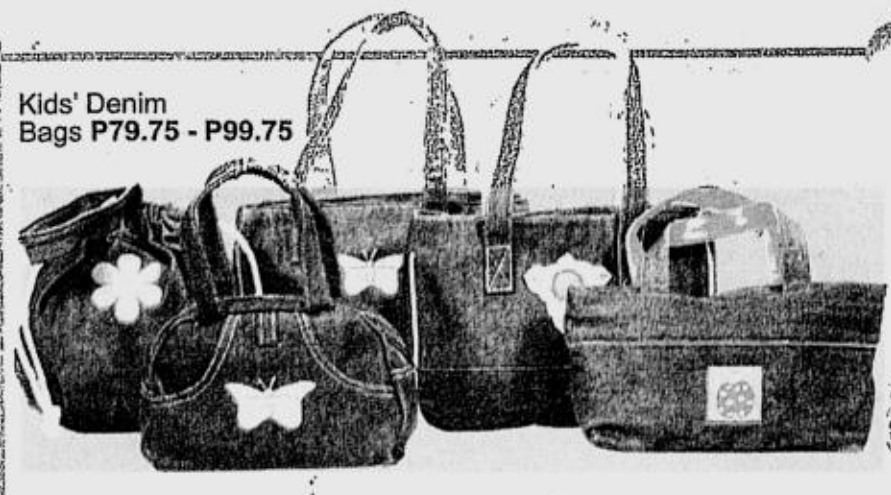


B+Active
Shirt **P99.75**



Kids' Denim
Bags **P79.75 - P99.75**



Hair Accessories
in Acrylic Case
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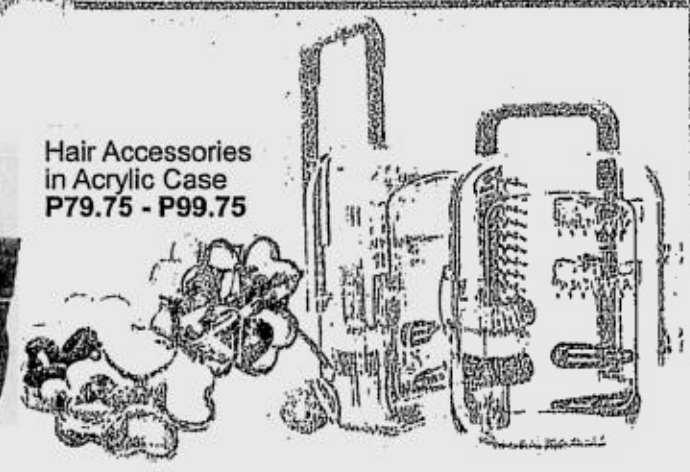
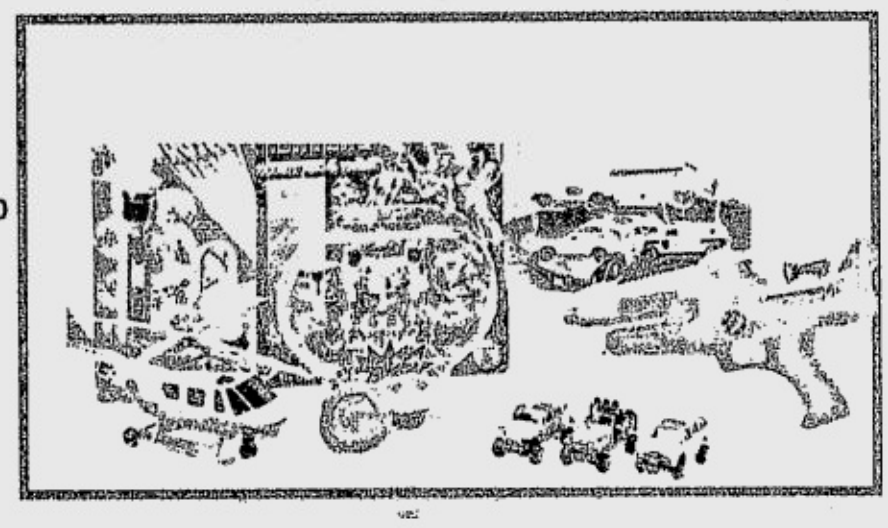
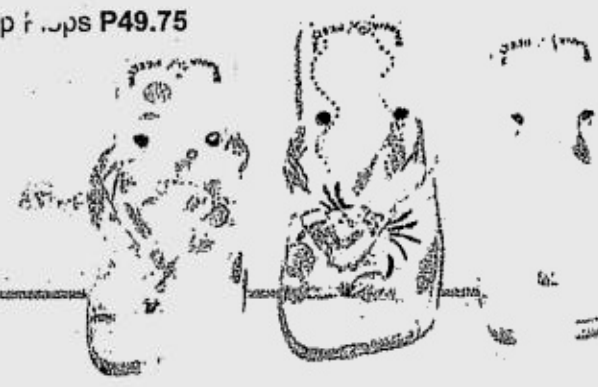


under
P100

Assorted Toys
P50.00 - P100.00

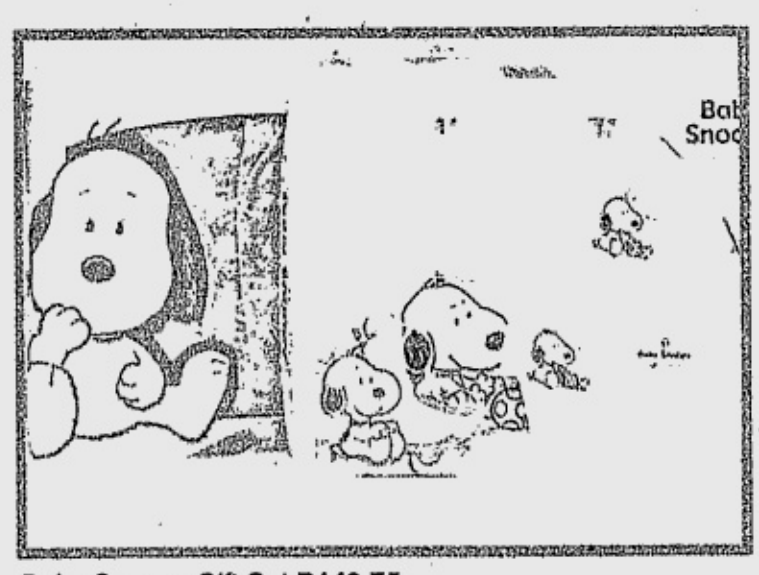


Flip Flops **P49.75**

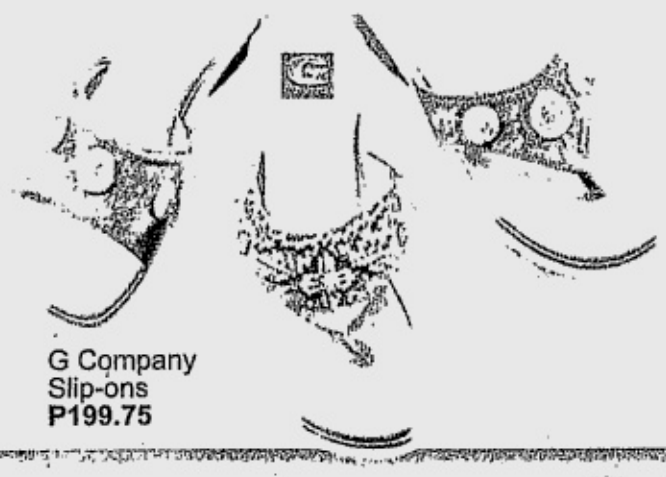


under
P200

B+Active Shorts Set **P179.75**



Baby Snoopy Gift Set **P149.75**



G Company
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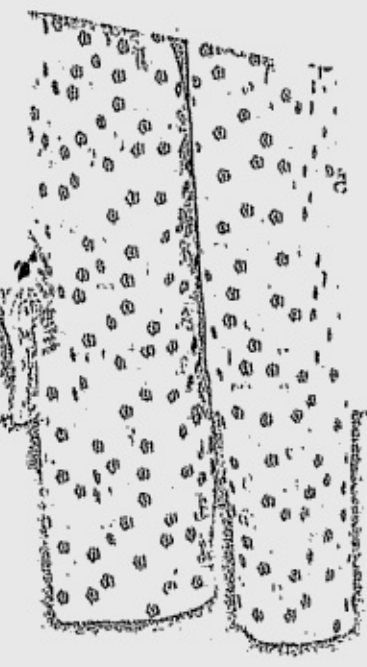
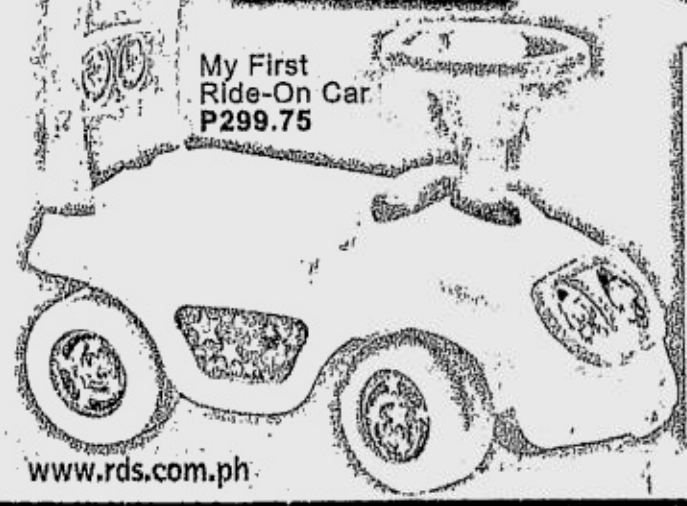


Disney Baby
Gift Set **P299.75**

under
P300

above
P300



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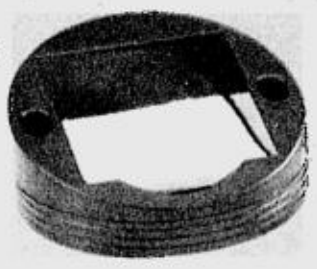
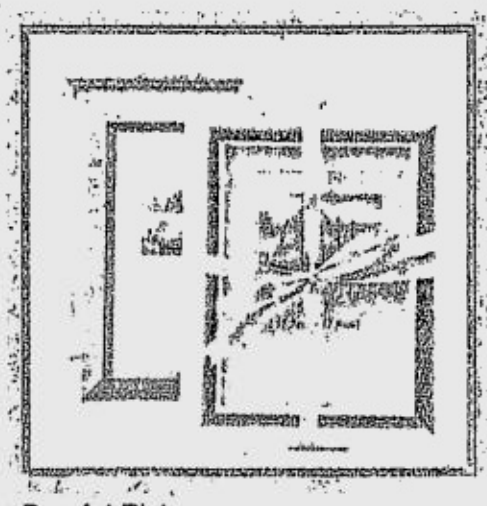
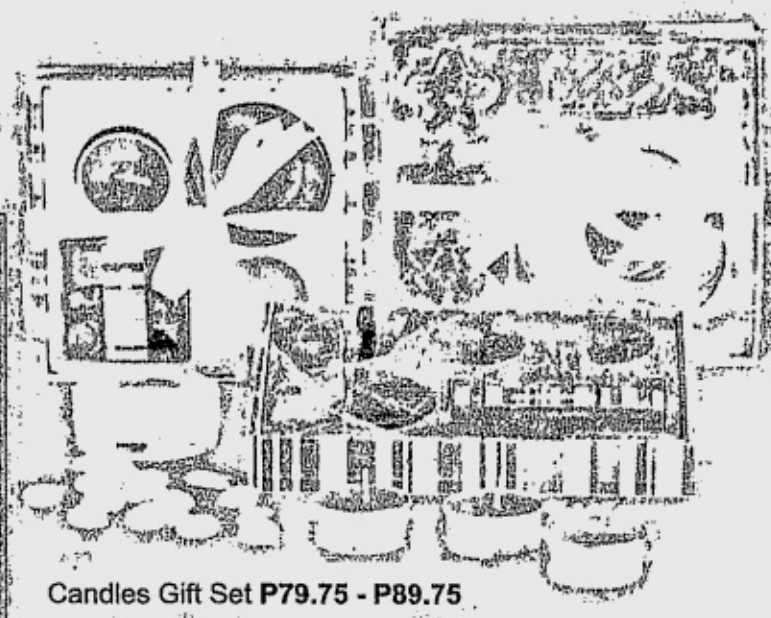
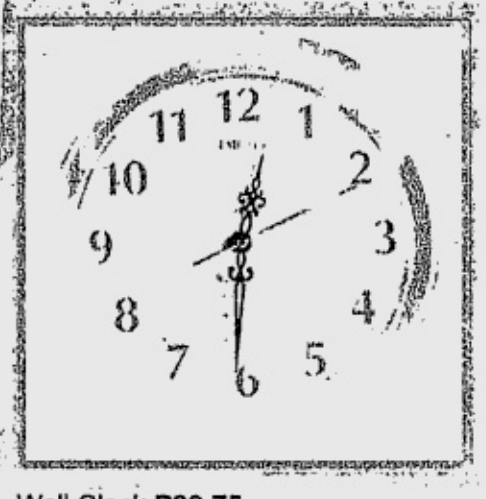




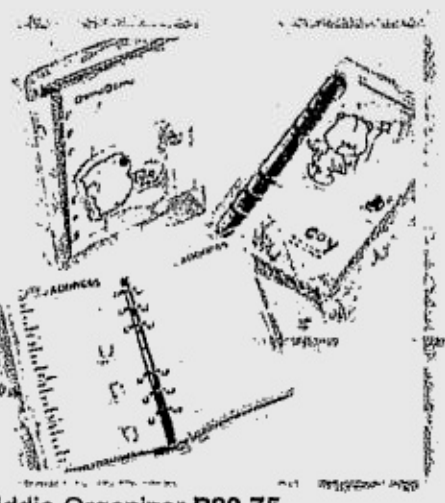
Bon Art Picture Frame (5"x7") **P89.75**



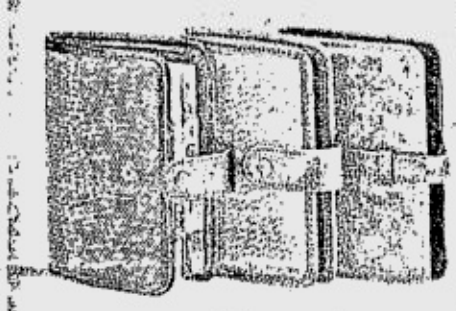
Candles Gift Set **P79.75 - P89.75**



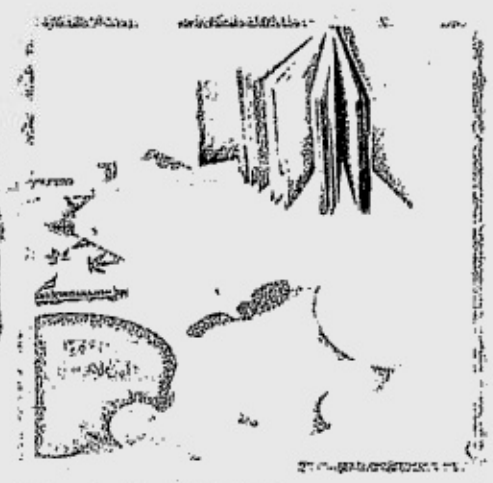
Wall Clock **P99.75**



Kiddie Organizer **P89.75**



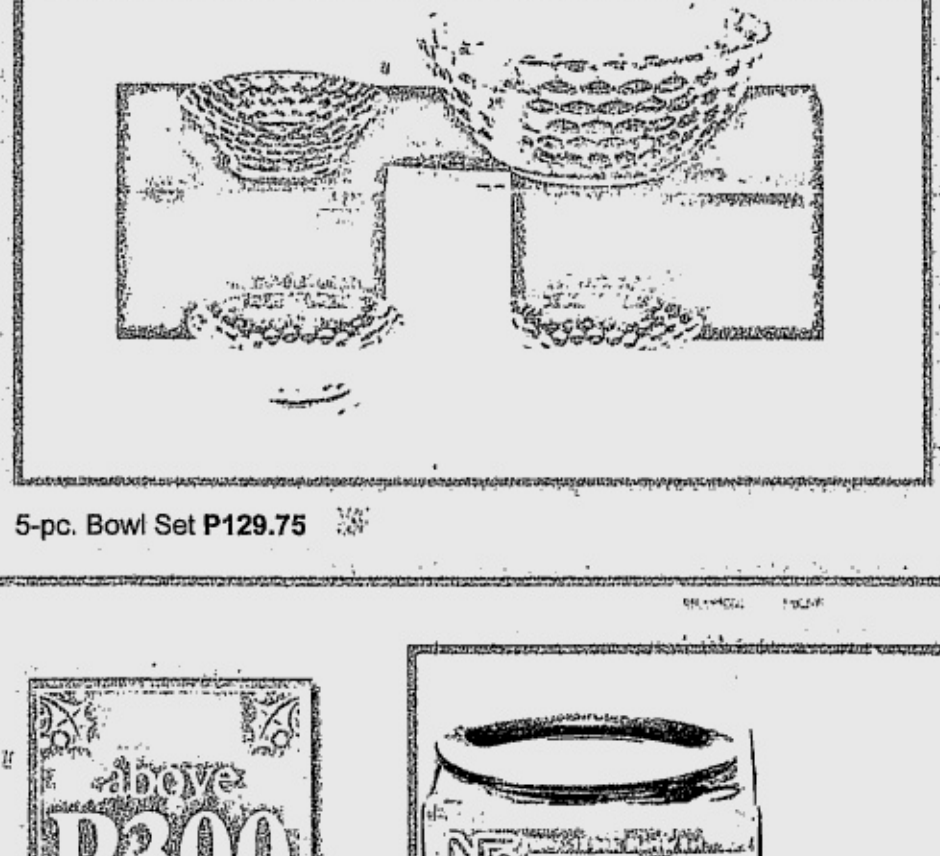
Organizer (5") **P69.75**



Diary w/ Fan **P69.75**

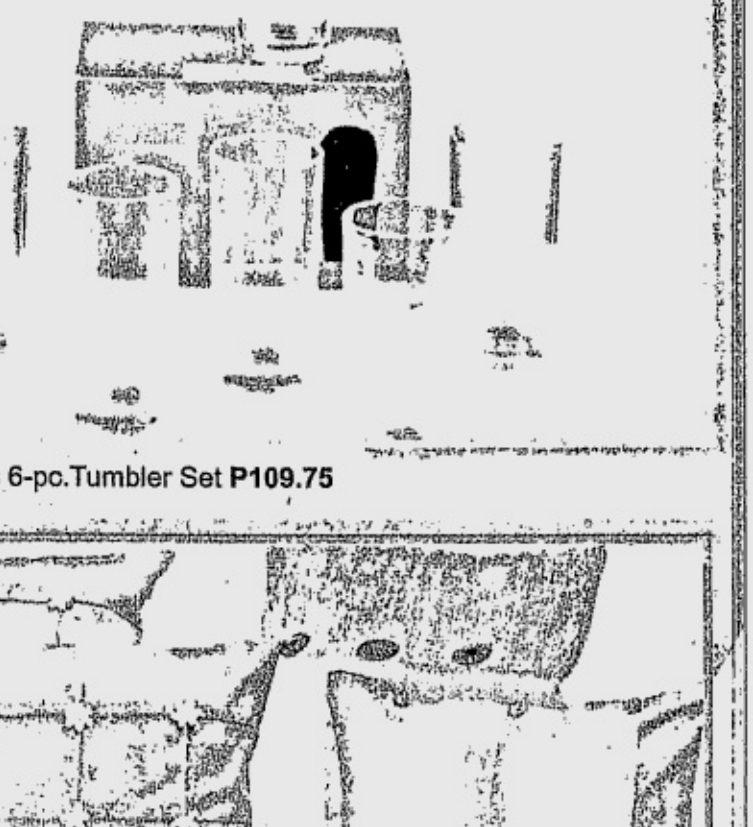
Li'l Hands School Set **P99.75**

Animal Alarm Clock **P99.75**



5-pc. Bowl Set **P129.75**

under P200



Home Essentials 6-pc.Tumbler Set **P109.75**

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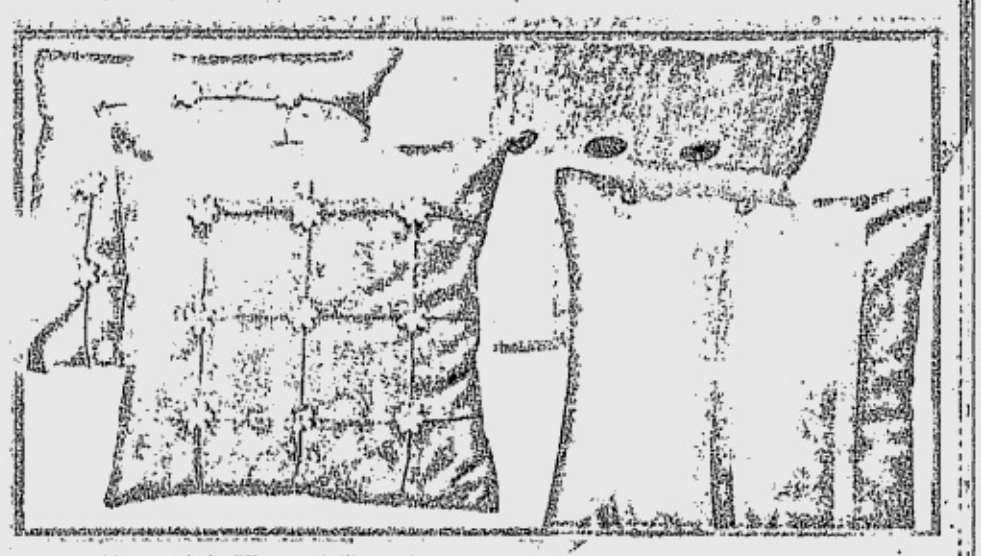
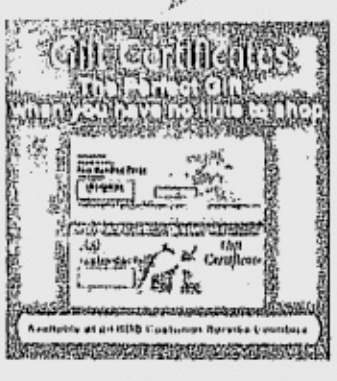
Dinnerware Set **P399.75**



Home Essentials Throw Pillow Cases **P149.75-P179.75**

Hanabishi Rice Cooker **P699.75**

Electric Tea Kettle **P539.75**



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Politics

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho isn't talking, so everyone has been speculating about his real reason for leaving the Cabinet. When he announced his resignation last Friday, Camacho said he felt physically, emotionally and financially spent after almost three years in the public service. But that was too broad a reason to satisfy anyone, especially the business community which considered him as the anchor of the Macapagal administration's economic team.

EDITORIAL

Some knowledgeable officials, however, told the INQUIRER that while Camacho had talked about resigning some months back, the last straw was President Macapagal-Arroyo's refusal to heed his recommendation that Winston Garcia be dismissed as president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System for incompetence and corruption. The President's decision was widely seen to be politically motivated. With Ms Macapagal running for the presidency, she was loath to risk losing the support of Winston's father, Gov. Pablo Garcia of Cebu, the province with the country's biggest number of voters.

Malacañang denies this, of course. While there was "conflict" between Garcia and Camacho, the President said Tuesday in Dumaguete City, Camacho's resignation was caused by financial reasons. She pointed out that while Camacho used to earn P5 million monthly in the private sector, he had to settle for a monthly salary of P50,000 as a Cabinet member. She further suggested that the financial pressure on Camacho was rising since a daughter was going to Harvard for her schooling.

If the President was talking of some other member of her official family, this would have been a very reasonable and acceptable excuse. But among Cabinet members, Camacho would be among the last to complain about being caught in a financial squeeze. With a net worth of P328.9 million, he is the second richest Cabinet official. And with that kind of money, sending a daughter to Harvard for a college degree isn't going to drive him to penury. Besides, Camacho didn't get to where he was in the world of international finance (before joining the government) by being dumb about money matters, including his own personal finances. Before he took up the challenge of public service, he must have factored in the losses. If Malacañang feels that it should explain Camacho's departure, it should offer a more plausible reason.

Camacho himself gave a hint of what finally drove him to give up when he told reporters: "Between now and the end of (Ms Macapagal's) term, politics is going to take center stage. I do not have to participate in that. It is time to move on."

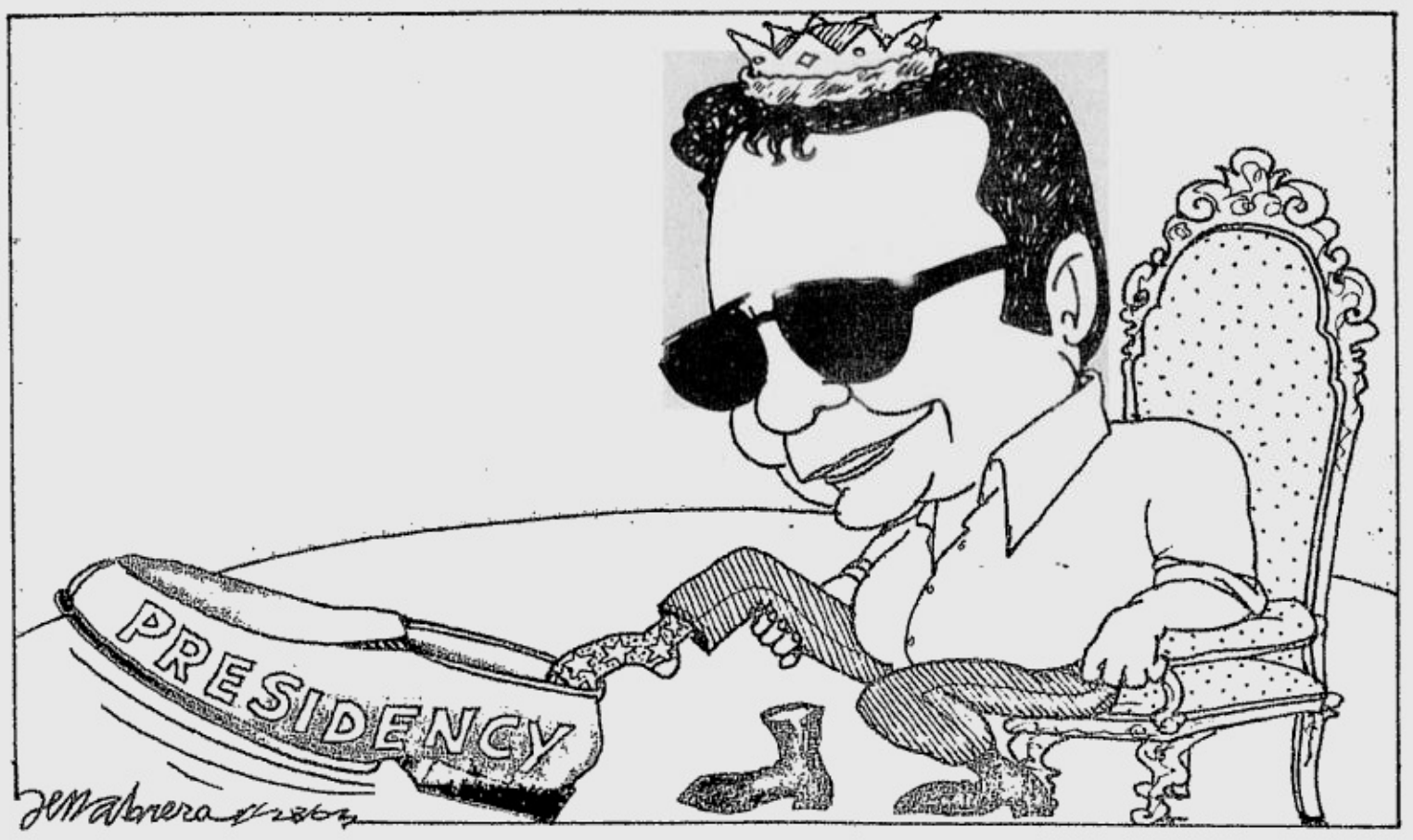
From beginning to end, politics seemed to be the heaviest burden and bane of Camacho's rather brief public service career. At the congressional hearings on his Cabinet appointment, he was made to explain why other members of his family put up posters and streamers ridiculing the behavior of some senators who had blocked the impeachment of then President Joseph Estrada. Last month, he led top Department of Finance officials in walking out of the budget hearings called by the House of Representatives after they were made to wait from morning until early evening. And then there was the President's decision to keep Garcia at the GSIS.

But it was something more sinister that forced Camacho to leave the Cabinet, according to Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo. The party-list representative said Camacho was apprehensive that public funds might be used for partisan undertakings. Ocampo said Camacho feared he would feel "helpless" if he found himself in a situation where he would be asked to allow "inappropriate fund releases."

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said that is not going to happen. "The budget is not going to be used for election purposes because our resolve to keep the budget deficit in check is as strong as ever," she assured reporters Wednesday.

But all too often, even a strong resolve to spend wisely gives way to the stronger resolve to remain in power or put friends in power. It has happened before and it could happen again. Boncodin can be trusted to try to keep her word, but can she withstand pressure from Malacañang all by herself?

More than the loss of a very competent man, the possibility of reckless, if not illegal, spending is what is probably making the currency market jittery.



Panic in Malacañang over FPJ's announcement

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TAPOS na ang boksing! The elections are over!

That was what many people declared upon hearing Fernando Poe Jr. announce that he is running for the presidency next year. That was the announcement many people had been waiting for and Malacañang had been dreading to hear for months.

A friend, who happened to be transacting some business in Malacañang Wednesday afternoon, told me that there was panic in the Palace when FPJ made his feared announcement. "Many top officials, especially the political advisers, sat stunned, speechless, some slightly shaking their heads, as the implications of FPJ's words sank in," my friend reported. They're probably thinking that they would be jobless within months.

There were reports that the President herself reacted the same way—shocked—when she heard the news. She bowed her head and didn't say anything, the reports said, but this could not be confirmed. As of this writing, the President still has made no official statement on FPJ's candidacy.

The statements from presidential political advisers that the President and Lakas welcomed FPJ's candidacy is pure bravado. What else can they say? How can they admit that their knees are shaking?

On the other hand, there was jubilation outside the Palace. People stayed glued to their TV sets. Pedestrians on the sidewalks stopped to watch FPJ on the TV sets displayed in the windows of the appliance stores. I was told that in some buses, conductors announced to the passengers that FPJ had finally thrown his hat into the presidential ring and turned up the volume of the bus radio. It was like they were hearing of the Second Coming, but in Malacañang it was more like they were hearing the end of the world.

At home, the young people who were previously not interested to register and vote suddenly said they would now register with the Comelec so they could vote for Da King.

Is FPJ really the modern day Messiah that will deliver the people from their suffering? There have been many false prophets down the ages. FPJ can be another one of those, as Erap was.

But you can't blame the people for believing he is. As the Hebrews of old kept waiting for the Messiah because they had been suffering for generations under different rulers, so Filipinos also believe that the newest popular candidate is finally that savior who will change their lives. Many traditional politicians have ruled them as presidents; each time they were disappointed. Instead of their lives becoming better, they have become worse. So can you blame them if they keep looking for one who would change their lives for the better?

But *tapos na ba talaga ang boksing*? Is he sure of winning? Certainly not. Translating one's popularity into actual votes counted for you is a difficult job. Being popular is one thing, having people actually vote for you is another. Even if people vote for you, having their votes counted for you is still another hurdle. You can win in the voting but can still lose in the counting. So many candidates have already suffered that fate. Cheating has always been a part of Philippine elections. It is only logical to think that some candidates and political groups are already thinking of doing that to FPJ. He has always won his fights against the bad guys in the movies, but the bad guys in politics are more devious and dangerous.

One drawback is that FPJ has no political party. Who will make sure his votes are counted until the end? His rival in the opposition, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, said Poe is not yet a member of the LDP so how can he be its candidate?

FPJ countered that he would not be the candidate of the LDP but of the United Opposition. He would be the candidate of the people, his supporters said.

His backers, neophytes in politics, may be too idealistic and too naïve. Politics is a dirty business. You cannot be squeaky clean and survive it.

But political parties need winners and there will be no shortage of parties willing to adopt a winner like FPJ. Never mind his qualifications. The important thing is to win first; everything else will come later. Even if you have the best qualification and the best platform, if you won't win, what's their use? But if you win, you can get the best minds to help you.

As expected, the businessmen of Makati were less than enthusiastic with FPJ. What is his platform? these elitists ask, a question that they never asked the other candidates. What is he going to do to improve the economy?

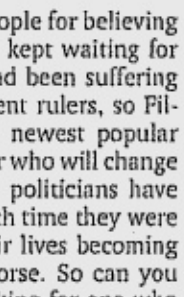
If you were to ask these businessmen the same question, they wouldn't know the answer. They haven't been able to find any answer for many years now. So they want an instant answer from a movie actor who entered politics only a day ago?

How did another movie actor-turned-president turn the ailing American economy around? Ronald Reagan, whom they laughed at when he announced his candidacy, appointed the best American minds available to help him, and by the time he left office after two terms, the US economy was in the best of health in many years. So the advice to these businessmen is this: Don't knock him until you've tried him.

The biggest danger that FPJ faces is not losing the elections (his rivals will have to do a lot of cheating to overcome his expected landslide votes) but being taken advantage of by the usual opportunists, the same *trapos* who victimized Erap and the other presidents. He should be wary of them.

Elegy

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

THERE is one big difference between Erap and FPJ. That is that Erap stopped making movies well before he ran for mayor of San Juan, while FPJ continues to make them to this day. That was one of the reasons I hoped Ang Panday wouldn't throw his hat into the ring, or hammer into the forge. He didn't need it, he wasn't *laos*. Anytime he needed money or acclaim, he could always make a movie. Anytime he needed to prove to himself he could still do it, he could make a blockbuster. In fact, anytime he needed to prove to himself he wasn't growing old like the rest of us, he could have a girl young enough to be his granddaughter for a love interest in a movie.

So the question—and it is the one reporters failed to ask last Wednesday—is: Will he continue to make movies if he becomes president? There is no ban against it, not legally, and in this country not even morally. Joey Marquez continued to make movies after he became mayor of Parañaque, both on screen and outside of it, the latter with Kris Aquino as *katambal*, the public being free to supply the title. Noli de Castro and Loren Legarda went back to their TV shows despite being senators, knowing TV was, is and will be the source of their popularity. Like I said, the truly bizarre thing I saw at one point was De Castro, a senator, wearing the hat of a TV talk show host interviewing GMA, the President who desperately longed to wear the hat of a movie star or talk show host. Weird country, this is.

Is it inconceivable that President Ang Panday or President Da King will continue to fight *aswangs* in movies while dealing with ogres (those behind him being the more lethal) in real life? If he doesn't, it will be the moviegoers' loss; if he does, it will be the citizens'. Heavy price to pay for one or the other.

Frankly, I thought he himself had too steep a price to pay for running for president to want to do it. As Da King, he stood above the fray, he was a larger-than-life hero beyond the pale of mortal carping. As Da Prez, if he makes it, he falls into the realm of the real, a place where warts show through the makeup. One can always argue, of course, that if you survive movie critics, you can always survive political ones. But that isn't true in this country. In this country, you can prevent "movie scribes" from saying bad things about you on pain of subjecting them to *takatakatak* punching, or its psychological equivalent. You cannot do the same thing to political reporters. Of course, you can always pay them off, or melt their hearts with flattery and attention—this business is getting more corrupt and petty by the minute—but that is another story.

Of course, I blame for this pass—for people like FPJ being lured into the folly of running for president and for the poor being lured into the bigger folly of making them so—first and foremost on those who have given this country precious little choice. The bane of the "politics of popularity," one that is turning government into the happy hunting ground of movie stars, television hosts and basketball players, has been such that I too wondered at one point if we were not better off having a parliamentary system. Though I did warn immediately after having said that that we could merely be scorning the movie star only to embrace again the old-fashioned *trapo*.

Wimpy Fuentebella, Gilbert Teodoro et al. and their backers in the House promptly proved it true. They turned the presidential and parliamentary system into a choice between comedy and tragedy, between fantasy and horror, between the opium of reel life and the brutality of the real one. Indeed, they turned the presidential and parliamentary contest into a choice between FPJ and Jose de Venecia. That is a no-brainer. Even Erap can answer that.

But it was a sad day for me when FPJ declared his intention to run for president last Wednesday. It wasn't a case of the moviegoers' loss, the voters' gain, it was just a case of a loss all around. Crispin Beltran may think FPJ can become an Asedillo in real life and turn against this country's colonizers, but more likely he will shout "Remember Bataan!" the way he did in his war movies and prosecute "the war against terror" like an action movie. With more pyrotechnics and graver consequences for this country.

On a more personal note, FPJ's decision to run spells the end of the age of innocence for me. FPJ and Erap were my boyhood heroes, the stuff of legend, the stars whose roles we all wanted to play in *baril-barilan*. The first big argument I had as a kid was over "Iyo Ang Tondo, Akin ang Maynila," the movie that drew together both titans of the local screen, pitting them in a *bakbakan* at one point. The argument was who was bigger and better.

I was for FPJ, of course, the cleaner, bigger, more mythical hero. I would shift allegiance later in life, finding Erap's movies grittier and fresher, and FPJ's more tired and formulaic. "Iyo ang Tondo" already showed Erap's willingness to take risks. If I recall right, he was the one who took a wayward turn, allowing himself to be lured to a life of crime, and died at the end of the movie, but not after a big *barilan*. Well, it wouldn't just presage his subsequent roles in movies, it would presage his subsequent role in life.

But that would be much later. Then, laden with the cares of boyhood, I defended FPJ, if not to the death, at least to the extent of reliving his role in real life, engaging other kids in fights or near-fights, without however managing to duplicate his *rat-a-tat* punching, except in my mind. And going home to meet a very real *rat-a-tat* encounter with my father's belt and an equally *rat-a-tat* lashing from my mother's tongue.

All that went last Wednesday, as though a finger had hovered over the keyboard and suddenly punched "Delete."

Campaign of deception

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

ENDING the uncertainty over his political plans, Fernando Poe Jr. on Wednesday announced his candidacy for president in the 2004 elections, with a lackluster start. Nothing could have been more uninspiring than the fact that he launched his candidacy surrounded by a claque of hacks in the movie industry, his main constituency, and a bland opening statement that gave absolutely no idea of where he wants to lead the country to.

I have seen party conventions in the past where presidential bids were launched. These were electrifying events that reflected the groundswell for change. During the nomination of Ramon Magsaysay, who was extremely popular even before the 1953 elections, the convention was charged by the overwhelming presence of young people. Nothing of that sort took place during Poe's announcement, which was as subdued as a wake. And that atmosphere belies claims that he is riding the back of a broad undercurrent of mass popularity.

When asked why he is running for president, Poe said, "I'm sincere, dedicated and I love my country." Few Filipinos will hesitate to assert the same things, and Poe does not have a copyright for these civic virtues, but this does not endow him with superior credentials to be president.

Some of his supporters say that he is honest, untainted by corruption and "has no baggage." There's no question about his being not corrupt, but he has never been in public service, and it is more accurate to say that he is untested on this score—and his test is yet to come.

Talking about baggage, this claim is the beginning of a grand deception of the Filipino people. The question that has quickly come up is, who are the financial and self-serving interests backing Poe's candidacy. Surely he can't run a presidential campaign on his earnings as an actor, so it is better for him and his supporters to stop making claims that he is not compromised by any baggage. It is destructive to his candidacy to build myths about Poe to cover up for his obvious limitations.

Poe is the first candidate for president since his buddy, former President Joseph Estrada, who is a school dropout, but Estrada had something more to offer: he was a successful mayor of San Juan, senator and vice president. Poe is completely inexperienced in public affairs, a fact that generates doubt on his competence. All Filipino presidents, from Manuel Quezon to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, had better education and the fact that some of them, including the brilliant Ferdinand Marcos, turned out to be failures is no argument that an illiterate could do much better than a lettered man. We have a better chance of getting a competent presidency from a field of people who have spent many years of their lives putting acknowledge in their heads. This is one false argument that needs to be exploded right at the start before we get hooked into this fallacious logic.

Watching TV on his announcement, one gets the impression that Poe himself was so overwhelmed by his decision that he looked like he was walking in a trance, leaving the public bewildered over what he has to offer to deserve the presidency, except his alleged popularity with the masses and the perception, which has no basis on hard evidence, that he is a sure winner.

This myth of "winnability" and popularity has to be exploded early before our people are deluded by this inflated perception. Poe made his announcement a few days after the publication of an opinion poll conducted from Oct. 21 to 17 by Roper ASW-Asia Pacific, a New York-based consultancy firm. The poll taken in Metro Manila, where there's a large base of urban poor, showed Raul Roco leading with 20.5 percent, followed by President Macapagal-Arroyo with 19.6 percent. Poe polled 5.7 percent, lower than Sen. Panfilo Lacson who had 9.8 percent.

In a series of surveys done by both Pulse Asia and the Social Weather Stations, no evidence has emerged about Poe's alleged popularity, which his promoters are making much of. He has been hovering near the bottom, unlike Estrada who, six months before the 1998 elections, was already galloping ahead in the surveys, indicating that a momentum for him was building. Nothing that looks like a momentum is building up for Poe, to support claims of his electoral invincibility, claims that do not respect hard evidence at all and are blown out of proportion. All these surveys were carried out either in Metro Manila or nationwide among all socio-economic classes, including the D and E classes, which are assumed to be Poe's *masa* constituency. Not a blob of this constituency has showed up in the polls.

In projecting Poe as a sort of an alternative to any of the others who have aspirations for the presidency, his handlers are better advised not to make a bubble of what he is not. Their campaign is based on deception, a bad early start for his candidacy. They could be fabricated cream puff.

When Poe announced his candidacy, he did it unilaterally. He did not wait for the opposition to complete its "road show" to determine a single presidential candidate for the "united opposition." He cannot do without a political vehicle, in this case the LDP machine.

Poe seems to believe that he does not need a party, thinking that his alleged popularity is enough to make him win. This reveals at an early stage that he has no need for institutions, without which no president can run this country effectively and competently.

Fair not free trade

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

WASHINGTON, D.C.—That is the engaging title of a monograph that an old friend, Rene Ofreneo, former dean and currently professor at the University of the Philippines School of Labor and Industrial Relations, gave me when I met him recently. It was published this year by the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), of which Rene is the executive director, and former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, the lead convenor. The FTA is characterized as a "multi-sectoral organization in defense of Philippine industries, agriculture, jobs and livelihood from the onslaught of unbridled trade liberalization and globalization." It was organized in September 2001 by a cross-section of industrial, labor, women's, consumers' and other civil society groups.

Last month, the FTA issued an "omnibus paper" on MFN (Most Favored Nation) tariffs, trade liberalization and economic development. Its message is to "stop de-industrialization" by calibrating Philippine tariffs now. This is a bit too technical for my little brain to digest adequately, so I'll revert to the bigger publication, "Fair Not Free Trade," which raises many compelling, but disturbing, insights on the state of the Philippine economy.

"The tasks facing the nation are awesome," it begins. While that sounds like the usual Philippine "gloom and doom" scenario, the FTA doesn't do that. It supports its basic contention with a lot of evidence and informed analysis.

"Ours is a devastated economy, with industries that are in various stages of collapse, an agriculture that is barely able to cover the food and survival requirements of those who till the land, a stock market which is the worst-performing in Asia, a currency devalued so many times over, and a treasury which depends mainly on borrowings, external or internal. Nearly six decades after independence, over one-third of our work force cannot find jobs or are stuck in precarious forms of livelihood." More than 3,000 Filipinos leave the country every day, including women, some of whom are degraded by prostitution, trafficking and other violations in their places of destinations.

To digress a little bit, some time last year, an article in Wired magazine, titled "One Nation, Overseas," by David Diamond caught the eye of some Philippine observers. The article talks about "global Filipinos" in 162 countries who are at work as engineers, nurses, bricklayers, farmers, seafarers, hairdressers, cooks, entertainers, crane operators and domestics. Their remittances account for 8.2 percent of the nation's GNP. "In short," Diamond notes, "this archipelago nation has succeeded at creating the world's most distributed economy, where the sources of production are so far-flung it boggles the mind." It's only a matter of time "before the Philippine miracle becomes a standard for the new mobile global order, with skilled and unskilled workers commuting over multiple time zones to fill labor gaps, zapping their wages homeward through space, reentering for a new assignment. Welcome to virtual nationhood." One nation indeed, overseas.

Much as the "*bagong bayani*" are celebrated because they've shored up the economy for many decades now, the FTA laments the fact that the country's economy has driven them out by the millions. And yet in the 1960s, the Philippine economy was seen as one of the most promising in Asia. Industrial experts from Korea, Taiwan and other Asian nations would visit the country to try to learn how to produce another "Asian car," and experts from Thailand and other parts of Southeast Asia came in droves to Los Baños to learn how to "green" the countryside and produce more rice. What happened?

Mainly, the FTA advocates explain, "three decades of neoliberal orthodoxy have stunted our growth as a nation and have allowed the original Asian NICs (South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong), the new Asian NICs (Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia for a while), and China and India to overtake and leave us behind in the industrialization process." Even war-devastated Vietnam and some South Asian countries, they warn, are already on their way to surpassing the Philippines.

The FTA has a number of recommendations that could be summarized as follows:

The first is to re-orient the policy direction of the economy after many decades of aimless liberalization. This reorientation means we should have a pro-Filipino and pro-active government. In turn, this means that the government should be able "to assert and enhance our national interests in the global and regional trading arenas as well as anticipate threats and develop opportunities for local industry and agriculture." It should not be tied to the "free-trade, neo-liberal economic dogma that the role of government is to minimize its role in the economy and allow the free flow of capital and goods in a liberalized, deregulated and privatized market."

The second relates to the current buzzword of "globalization." The FTA advocates believe the technocrats, past and present, "have done a poor, lazy and un-Filipino job by adopting, unilaterally, a one-sided, accelerated and simplistic program of economic deregulation to promote the global integration of the economy without putting in place the necessary readiness program and safety nets for the vulnerable sectors and, worst of all, without sufficiently informing and consulting the affected industries and sectors." Maximum efforts should be exerted to develop and modernize the agro-industrial sector.

The third addresses the need for urgent reforms to support the vision of a nationalist and pro-active economy, beginning with a breathing spell from "suffocating liberalization." There is also a need to look inward to the potentials of a population of 85 million, which is a huge market. Measures are needed to "check smuggling, prevent unfair dumping, promote the growth of local industry and agriculture, and develop a culture of patronizing Philippine-made products."

Similarly, given that the level of foreign investments remain low despite liberalization, the FTA calls for the mobilization of existing local capital and resources. Since foreign remittances amount to some $6 to $7 billion a year, perhaps part of this could be capitalized for productive domestic ventures. Come to think of it, where is all that money going?

Finally, the FTA is calling not just for government changes but for a broader movement of reform to inculcate the values of industry, integrity and nationalism, especially among the youth "who have been bombarded day in and day out with the values of transnational brand-conscious consumerism."

There is more to this thoughtful FTA pamphlet than can be written down here. This broader reform movement should be supported by every Filipino. As Rene Ofreneo puts, globalization is a war of national interests, and "we believe only the Filipinos can help themselves in a dog-eat-dog world under globalization."

Belinda A. Aquino is professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Powerlessness is the problem

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

ACADEMICS have finally caught up with the age-old insight of social organizers that power is at the heart of the poverty problem. The World Bank, United Nations agencies, the Philippine government and others now list powerlessness among the essential notes of poverty along with lack of money, poor health and education, vulnerability and exclusion. They do not assign priorities. There is no *primus inter pares*, but at least powerlessness is seen as part of the problem. The two sides no longer speak two distinct languages.

In the 1970s, poverty alleviation was seen as a matter of increasing family income. In later years, health and education were added as it was clear they were needed if people were to work effectively. Other dimensions were added as social scientists examined poverty from the viewpoint of the poor and found it to be a complex tangle of issues, customs, culture, limitations and hope.

Poor people want more income, but they also want job security. They want education for their children that will help them escape poverty and provide them access to medical help, decent and secure homes with water, sanitation and light where there are no evictions. They want to be able to take care of their loved ones, the freedom to practice their religion, to vote as they want, to criticize government, and they want respect. Often in the people's eyes these are greater blessings than money.

Also, helping poor people solve one issue will not necessarily help solve others. This is the problem with most anti-poverty work, namely, its piecemeal approach. Increasing real family monthly incomes by, say, P500 will not improve the local school where classes are held on three shifts a day in packed classrooms and by overworked teachers. It won't make a significant improvement in diet. It won't reduce the cost of water and medical help, or make local governments more attentive to people's needs.

What will do all these things? Social organizers, including peasant leaders, union organizers and community organizers, have focused on winning power by organizing the poor into large, democratic, hopefully non-violent associations, that can put effective pressure on the country's leadership to change the ways in which they deal with the poor and in the process solve all or most of their problems.

> If the poor people of a town or city can organize themselves and gain influence, they can change nearly all aspects of poverty for the better

Such pressure has been effective: labor laws, land reform, urban land proclamations, restricted fishing zones and land grants to indigenous peoples have been some of the results. If the poor people of a town or city can organize themselves and gain influence, they can change nearly all aspects of poverty for the better: they can get the city to improve schools, health services, control water prices, grant land tenure security, etc. In the process, the poor will gain their dignity. Securing power at the negotiating table is the most effective and economical way to alleviate poverty in all its manifestations.

Such organizing movements ought to be encouraged by the wider society, or, as happened in the past, they may go outside society and turn violent, like the Huks, for example.

At present the World Bank advises governments to listen to the poor and even encourage their organizing, but is it unrealistic to expect governments to take the advice? As the democratic mayors of America's big cities said to President Lyndon Johnson in the early stages of his War on Poverty, when he was still encouraging community organizing of Hispanics and Afro Americans, "We don't appreciate you giving money to these people so they can march to city hall and make trouble for us, so please stop it." Johnson who needed the votes the mayors, controlled the community organizing programs. No mayor wants poor people demonstrating in the streets. Most won't help the poor organize. Organizing for power must be a people's initiative.

Nowhere in Asia are poor people better at organizing than in the Philippines. What can help them is a wide consensus that such organizing is needed. Change doesn't come from the top. Even in the cities most celebrated for helping the poor, such as Naga and Cebu, the mayors had to be won over and bound to the poor before they became the benevolent leaders they are seen to be today. Change comes from the grass roots with people's power. The World Bank, the United Nations and other respected bodies now agree.

Let us try to build into our laws and ways of making decisions and provisions for including the voices of the poor, especially the organized poor. Let us respect the organized poor. All good things can happen when poor people organize to improve their lives. In parts of Tondo in the early 1970s, soon after the Zoto people's organization started, I remember there were no more drugs and no more stealing for a while; the streets and alleys were clean; there were no gang fights; there was an air of fresh hope over that community that had known hardship before. Years later, Zoto scored some big victories, including relocation for about 7,000 families and upgrading and titling for 2,000 families.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

Lolo Jose

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

SOME TIME ago my niece asked me to read her a story from a pile of illustrated books she had brought over from her home. We read one, then another, until we finished everything she had. I thought I had completed my duty as a doting uncle, until she asked that we go through the books a second, and later a third time. Naturally, I was getting restless and bored.

It was obvious that she had gone through the books before with other adults and yet the child listened and reacted as if she was hearing the story for the first time. Would there be no end to this storytelling session? Perhaps the magic was in each retelling because we would deviate from the text, look at the pictures in the book, and often I would add (or invent) little details that were not in the printed text.

In the course of each reading, questions were asked, reactions solicited and soon she was narrating her own version of the stories as well as giving her insights into each of the pictures and each of the characters.

The books used in that long Sunday afternoon were Walt Disney versions of "Snow White," "Cinderella," "Sleeping Beauty," "Pocahontas," and last but not least, "Beauty and the Beast." While I may not have grown up on the same animated versions of these stories, these were still very much a part of my own childhood. Like my nieces I was taught and actually memorized nursery rhymes from Mother Goose instead of Philippine poems and proverbs. I was told tales straight out of the Brothers Grimm and Hans Christian Andersen even before I heard my first Philippine folk tale. As a child, I knew more about Greek and Roman mythology than Philippine myths and legends.

One difference between my nieces and me is that as a child learning to read, I found in my father's library an illustrated book, "Philippine Myths and Legends," as retold by Manuel and Lyd Arguilla. That started me on a long voyage of discovery. Later in the now extinct Ato bookshop on Session Road in Baguio, I found Maximo Ramos' "Creatures of Midnight," a book on "creatures of lower Philippine mythology" which I found very fascinating because it was an illustrated guide to *aswang*, *tianak*, and all the things that *yaya* told us came out at night to eat naughty children. The book helped me overcome fear because it suggested ways of dealing with the various *aswang*. These two simple books led me to discover the wealth of our own stories on my own.

Looking back on my childhood, now that I am old enough to have children and grandchildren of my own, I realize that my nieces, like many other Filipino children, are still raised on Western fairy tales despite a wealth of homegrown tales. I mask my guilt by saying that even Jose Rizal translated a handful of fairy tales from the original German into Tagalog and went one step further to illustrate these for his nephews and nieces.

It is unfortunate that the original manuscript, extant before the war, remains unlocated to this day. Asuncion Lopez Bantug, grandniece of Rizal, remembers that when they were children they were allowed to handle this work whenever they garnered honors or high grades in school. It is likely that the manuscript was destroyed during the war, one of the cultural casualties of the Battle for Manila in 1945. But I remain hopeful that this and other important manuscripts will surface from somebody's *baul* or *aparador* to enrich our history and culture.

While Rizal's translations of Andersen is little known, he popularized one particular folktale: that of the "Monkey and the Turtle." In 1889, Rizal wrote a learned article for Trubner's Record titled "Two Eastern Fables." Since the readers were ethnologists, he compared the familiar Philippine folktale "Ang Buhay ni Pagong at ni Matsing" with a similar Japanese tale about a monkey and a crab. The article, which is seldom read today, was used as the English text for a new edition of "The Monkey and the Turtle" (Tahanan Books, 2003) launched last Tuesday that reproduces Rizal's own illustrated version of this tale.

In Paris, some time in December 1885, Rizal dined in the home of Juliana Gorricho, mother of his friend Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera, and was there presented with a scrapbook or guest book by Paz Pardo de Tavera (later the wife of Juan Luna). There were only a few pages left in the scrapbook and Paz requested Rizal to fill these up with his thoughts, poetry or doodles so that she could start a new one. Here Rizal drew, in comic book form, the tale of the monkey and the turtle which he entitled in French "Le Singe et la Tortue," but under the drawings he narrated the story in Spanish. Like the manuscript translation of Andersen's tales, this scrapbook also remains unlocated. What have been handed down to us are black and white reproductions in the 1913 biography, "Life, Lineage and Labors of Jose Rizal," by Austin Craig.

Tahanan Books is not only giving this delightful work by Rizal a new lease on life, but has gone one step further by adding color to the black-and-white line drawings. This latest edition, the third that I know of, should remind us not just to look into our own folk tales, myths and legends but more importantly, to see Rizal in a new light: not just as a national hero but as the father of Philippine children's literature, and as the doting father of the Filipino nation, someone all children should learn to affectionately call our Lolo Jose.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

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Adjusting emission standards

THIS refers to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources press release on Department Administrative Order (DAO) 51, series of 2003, amending in-use motor vehicle emission standards. Please allow me to explain:

First of all, the DENR did not amend the Clean Air Act (CAA). Only Congress has the power to amend any law. It did, however, amend the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of the act, specifically Rule XXXII Section 1, which provides for the emission standards for in-use vehicles.

Please take note that we had decided to adopt emission standards based on Euro 1 standards starting Jan. 1, 2003 (as provided for in Section 21 of CAA and Rule XXXI, Section 4 of the IRR). Thus, conformity of production for motor vehicles to be introduced into the market beginning Jan. 1, 2003, requires manufacturers to build cars that do not emit carbon monoxide (CO) beyond 3.16 g/km.

However, Section 1 of Rule XXXII requires cars to be registered for the first time after Jan. 1, 2003 to meet a CO standard of 0.5 (percent volume). This CO standard is equivalent to Euro 3 or 4 standards. The situation is similar to building a car to run at a maximum of 100 km/hr and then expecting it to run at 500 km/hr.

DAO 2003-51 corrects this error in the IRR. By adopting 3.5 (percent by volume) as the emission standard for in-use vehicles registered starting Jan. 1, 2003, we seek to harmonize in-use emission standards with Euro 1 standards.

Japan, a major manufacturing center, uses a CO standard of 4.5 (percent by volume). These standards are also comparable with our neighboring Asian countries such as India, Indonesia, Nepal, China, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, which are also currently implementing Euro 1 standards with a CO limit of between 3.0 and 6.0.

Rest assured that we will not lower our guard in the fight for clean air.

—ELISEA G. GOZUN,
secretary,
Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, QC

Appeal of AFP retirees/pensioners

THIS is an appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo from the retirees and pensioners of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in connection with the 10 percent increase in pensions effective Jan. 1, 2000. As of this date, we have not received our differential for the month of December 2000 and for the whole year of 2001.

We need the amount for our livelihood and for our daily sustenance, and for medicines. We and our dependents are pinning our hope on the President as we have been waiting for this for a long time. We hope that our long wait will be over.

—COL. RODOLFO B. HECHANOVA, PA (ret.),
Aquino Street,
Phase 2, St. Joseph Village,
Balabago, Jaro,
Iloilo City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

SSS records now in order

THIS is regarding a letter to the editor titled, "Lost SSS records?" which appeared in the Oct. 15 issue of the INQUIRER.

Filipina Romana-Masangcay prepared the letter on behalf of her brother-in-law, Benito Y. Sabado, who requested adjustment and posting of his contributions from May 1961 to Dec. 31, 1987 as an employee of ABS-CBN.

Sabado's contributions have been posted. He now has a total of 209 contributions and is eligible for retirement pension.

—JOEL P. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president for media affairs, Social Security System, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Patriotism of the highest order

I DO not agree with the view of reader Francisco San Miguel in his letter to the editor (PDI, 11/17/03) that the act of Christian Jan "CJ" Suarez in wearing a Filipino flag T-shirt while kissing his World Cup championship trophy, showed little respect and reverence for the Philippine flag. On the contrary, it was patriotism of the highest order. Without saying a word, he showed the entire world that he was proud to be a Filipino.

The entire American Ryder Cup team wore stars and stripes shirts in their quest for golf glory. Their counterparts, the European team, sported the blue Euro flag.

Who has misplaced patriotism? Suarez or Dorothy Delasin, who despite accepting two Filipino Athlete of the Year Awards from the Philippine Sportswriters Association, never bothered to have herself introduced at the tee-offs as somebody from the Philippines but as somebody from "Daly City, USA"?

—DANNY CO,
35 Madison St., North Greenhills,
San Juan, Metro Manila

Ebdane, not Copa, is the destabilizer

THE COUNCIL on Philippine Affairs (Copa) takes exception to the unfounded and irresponsible statements of PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane that Copa was involved in the recently dispersed rally of the People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP) on Ayala Avenue, Makati—with Ebdane further alleging that a tie-up has been forged between Copa and PMAP in seeking to destabilize the Macapagal administration.

Copa, if it has escaped the PNP chief's mind and better judgment, has always acted contrary to the objectives of PMAP:

1. Where Copa has initiated the series of events that ousted and jailed former President Joseph Estrada, PMAP is initiating a series of events to free and reinstate Estrada.

2. Where PMAP was at the vanguard of the attacking column that assaulted Malacañang on May 1, 2001, Copa was there defending the seat of executive power and the lives of Copa members were risked in that defense.

3. Where Copa has been supporting the private prosecutors who are assisting the Ombudsman in the Estrada plunder case, and Copa has been consistently denouncing efforts to strike a deal for the release of the former president, PMAP has been consistently seeking to pressure for—not only the release of Estrada—but his reinstatement as well.

Ebdane can only be seen as malicious when he alleges that Copa was in the PMAP rally that the PNP violently dispersed. No Copa member was ever present in that rally, much less sympathetic to its causes. PMAP was pushing for the Davide impeachment in that rally, among its other issues. Copa very clearly denounced the Davide impeachment when it was launched.

If Ebdane cannot discern these obvious differences between Copa and PMAP, then we can only interpret this wild accusation as:

1. Another administration plot to discredit legitimate dissent by associating it with other groups which may not meet public standards or acceptance. Not surprising considering that Ebdane's boss, Interior Secretary Jose Lina, tried a few months ago to do the same—only to retract having made such a wild and unfounded accusation when we reacted.

2. Symptomatic of the inefficiency of the PNP as recently also displayed with the overkill operation in the Naia Tower incident.

3. The PNP is laying down the fabricated premises to justify taking severe action against groups that have figured in exposing the excesses of the Macapagal administration. It is common knowledge that this administration has reeled from the exposés of Copa like the over P500 million overprice of the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard which is now with the Ombudsman.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is calling for genuine reconciliation. If she is indeed sincere, then it is Ebdane, and not Copa, who is the destabilizer.

—WILLIAM M. ESPOSO,
chair, Council on Philippine Affairs,
Cityland Condominium, Makati City

FPJ deserves the chance to run

I WOULD like to comment on the numerous negative comments sent in by readers regarding the qualifications (or lack thereof) of Fernando Poe Jr. to be president of the Philippines.

To begin with, I'm not a fan of FPJ so let me start by saying that I will not vote for him. Those negative comments from numerous INQUIRER readers, including the editorial, are all griping about the inadequate qualifications of FPJ. However, despite their misgivings, readers all believe that if FPJ runs, he would win without any problem at all.

Such being the case, then the condemnation starts. Those readers fail to realize the true essence of democracy. If the majority of Filipinos decide to elect FPJ, despite his lack of qualifications, then let it be. As long as the election is held in a relatively honest way, I don't see any problem at all.

If FPJ takes the Philippines down the road of economic destruction after being elected, then no one should be blamed but those who voted for him.. We reap what we sow, plain and simple. But no one can say whether or not FPJ can turn the country around. After all, when we elected Ferdinand Marcos, the smartest of all past presidents, we ended up in economic ruin, there were gross violations of human rights, corruption of government institutions, etc. Maybe, it's time to elect a "dumb" president.

—BILL SABALBURO,
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Acrossthe NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

6 killed as gunmen attack 2 families

PARANG, Maguindanao—At least six people were killed while six others were hurt following an attack by a group of unidentified armed men in Barira town in Maguindanao on Thursday morning, the police and the military reported yesterday.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, identified four of the fatalities as Rohaina Solayman, 28, Eskats Solayman, 30, Johny Maricor, 35 and Ruben Maricor, 29, all residents of Barangay Rumirimbang.

Two of the slain victims remain unidentified according to Supt. Salik Macapantar, commander of the 1506th police mobile group of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Only three of those wounded in the 10-minute attack were identified. These were Sitor Main Kasan, Sambutor Solayman, 4, and Norodin Barao.

Ando said the Solayman and Barao clans were having a meeting in connection with the planned wedding of their two members when about 10 heavily armed men arrived around 11:30 a.m.

Macapantar said they were not clear about the identity of the attacking group but they could be from a clan, which has a *rido* or misunderstanding with the victims.

Barao confirmed Macapantar's suspicion.

He told reporters that he recognized some of the attackers but declined to reveal their identities.

"Everybody in the village knew them, they have acts to grind against us," he said in the vernacular.

Maguindanao is notorious for violence related to misunderstandings between families which in most cases are armed.

Senior Supt. Isnaji Bantala, ARMM police chief, said he sent a team of police peacekeepers to prevent the escalation of the violence in Barira.

Barira Mayor Alex Tomawis said it was important the *rido* be patched up before it escalates.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Major's wife to sue hospital

BACOLOD CITY—The wife of an Army major who was among the 15 persons killed in a vehicular accident in Silay City on Nov. 15 said he would sue a private hospital here for allegedly failing to immediately attend to the military officer, which she believed caused his death.

Ginalyn Gerona, wife of Maj. Nelson Gerona, said she would pursue a case against Riverside Medical Center for the untimely death of her husband.

Gerona, 39, and spokesperson of the Philippine Army's 303rd Infantry Brigade based in Negros Occidental, died at the Corazon Locsin Montelibano Memorial Regional Hospital on Nov. 16, a day after a vehicular accident in Silay City that took the lives of 14 others.

The National Bureau of Investigation is investigating the RMC after the military officer's family blamed the hospital for his death.

The RMC allegedly had Gerona transferred to the CLMMRH when it was uncertain as to who would foot his bill. Its officials said he was identified only as "Mr. X."

The RMC management, however, has insisted that immediate attention was given to Gerona and that he was transferred after his situation had stabilized.

Gerona, while being attended to in the hospital in Silay City immediately after the accident, was quoted as having said: "Please refer me to the best hospital. I don't want to die, I have so many plans."

Mrs. Gerona yesterday said that she would file charges against the hospital with the help of lawyers who have volunteered to assist her.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Iloilo, Bacolod parties throw hats into GMA ring

By Nestor Burgos Jr. and Carla Gomez, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr., president of the regional party Ugyon which Senate President Franklin Drilon chairs, said it would support the candidacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo next year and would endorse Drilon, an Ilonggo, to be Ms Macapagal's running mate.

In Bacolod City, a local party closely associated with business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco has agreed to support Ms Macapagal.

The leaders of the United Negros Alliance (UNA) also decided to continue its coalition with the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats provided the ruling party will not field candidates outside of UNA.

The consensus was reached during a meeting on Saturday in Talisay City, Negros Occidental attended by Gov. Joseph Marañon and Negros Representatives Alfredo Marañon, Jose Carlos Lacson and Carlos Cojuangco. Also in the meeting were mayors, vice mayor and councilors in the province.

Most of the UNA members are part of the Nationalist People's Coalition which Cojuangco founded and heads.

Drilon was mum over the prospects of his running for vice president as he formally joins and assumes the chairmanship of the Liberal Party (LP) today.

Choice

Drilon said the choosing of the vice presidential candidate is "a matter of choice of the presidential standard-bearer and also the party to which I will belong . . ."

The Ilonggo senator was here as guest of honor during the inaugural rites of the P385-million Iloilo provincial capitol.

Drilon said after he takes his oath as chair of the LP today, the party will decide on who to support in the 2004 elections. But he refused to say who the LP will support saying he does not want to preempt the decision of the party.

Sources, however, said the LP is likely to place its bets on Ms Macapagal because Ms Macapagal's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, was an LP stalwart.

Drilon said he would work with LP's national executive council to discuss the process of nominating the party's candidates.

When asked if he would abide by the party decision if it the party decides to support a candidate for president, Drilon said he would be a "party man" but quickly added that he does not want to preempt the choice of the LP.

Drilon has not been affiliated with any party since leaving the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), the opposition's biggest party, in 2001. He, however, is a staunch supporter of Ms Macapagal.

Principles

He earlier denied that he is joining the LP to run for vice president. He said he is joining the party because he is comfortable with the principles of LP.

Various groups and political leaders here have been urging Drilon to run for vice president. They have passed resolutions calling on the President to name Drilon as her running mate.

Representative Marañon, UNA chair, said their continued coalition with Lakas-CMD also means they are supporting the bid of Ms Macapagal for the presidency in 2004.

The congressman also heads NPC members in the House.

It was not known, however, if the Negros coalition could also be taken to mean that the NPC and Cojuangco would support Ms Macapagal in 2004.

But sources within the UNA told the INQUIRER that the Negros coalition would not likely hold should the NPC decide to support a presidential candidate other than Ms Macapagal.

Coalition

Ignacio Arroyo Jr., brother-in-law of the President, and Lakas-CMD chair in Western Visayas, said his understanding is that the Negros coalition will hold until the 2004 elections and include support for Ms Macapagal's candidacy.

When asked what would happen if NPC decided to support another presidential candidate, Arroyo replied: "Let's cross the bridge when we get there, I hope the coalition holds."

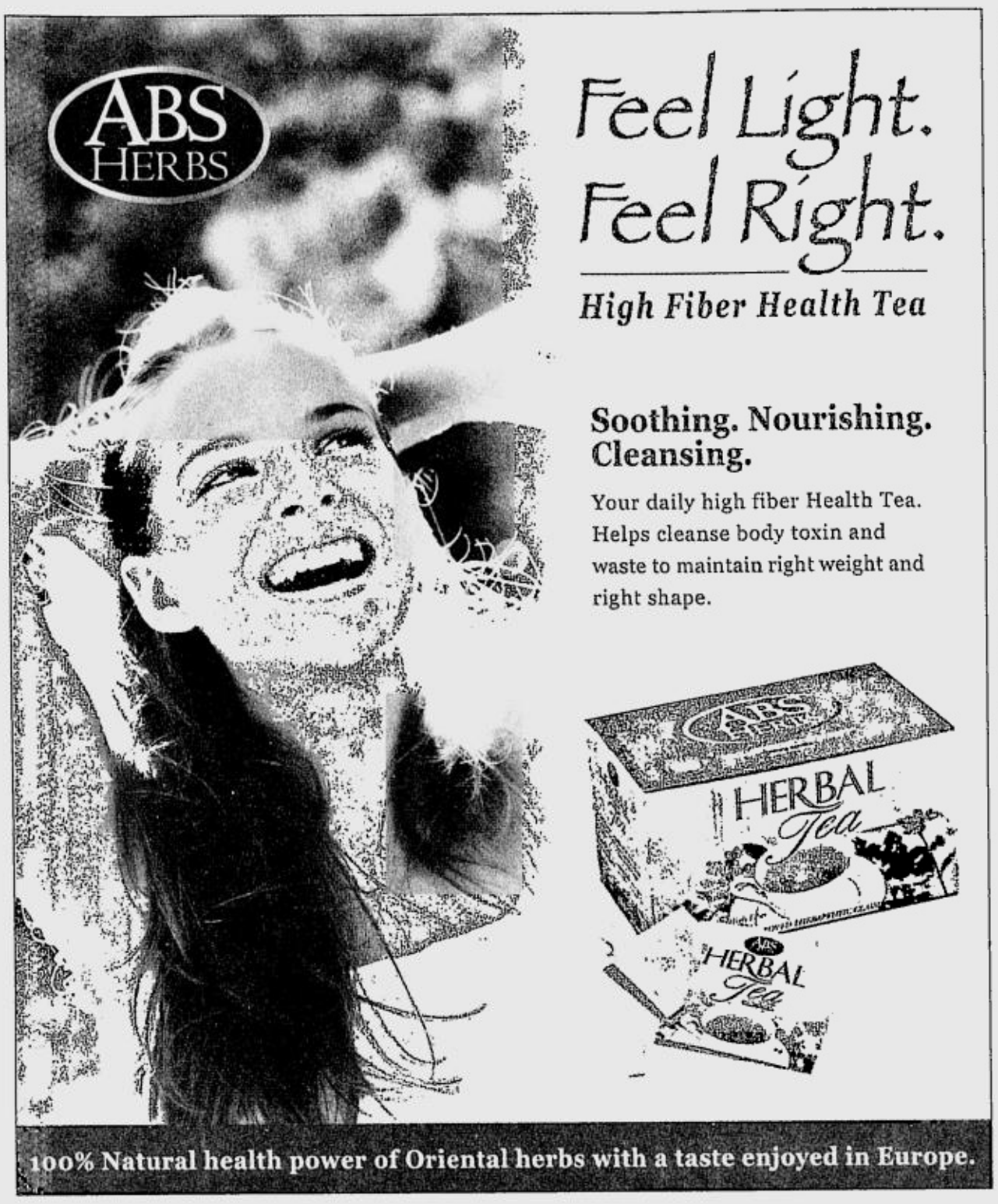
Gloria gives ₱1M to drug rehab center

DUMAGUETE CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo promised P1 million for the newly opened Negros Oriental Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (NODTRC).

The President, who was in this city during its fiesta celebration Tuesday to inaugurate the center in Barangay Talay and grace the launching of the "Negor Kontra Druga" (Negros Oriental Against Drugs), said she was giving the amount to help poor drug dependents who might want to undergo drug rehabilitation.

The amount would be taken from the P1 billion budget of her administration's anti-illegal drug campaign, the President said.

Gov. George Arnaiz said the amount would be handed over to the NODTRC, a private organization tasked with running and managing the center. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*



Basilan bishop backs death penalty

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Basilan Bishop Martin Jumoad said he was supporting President Macapagal-Arroyo's position to lift the moratorium on capital punishment, particularly for those who have committed heinous crimes such as kidnapping.

But in an apparent effort to avoid stirring controversy, Jumoad immediately added that he was speaking for himself and not on behalf of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic hierarchy strongly opposes the execution of convicts saying it runs contrary to the teachings of God.

"The greater good is to implement death penalty so that would-be criminals will think twice before they will commit (any) crime," Jumoad told the INQUIRER.

Jumoad said he has seen all forms of violence during his 20-year stay in Basilan and more often than not, criminals continue to be scot-free.

"I see the need for something to be done to stop violence, to stop evil in society, and if you see the faces of the victims of heinous crimes, you would prefer death penalty," the prelate said.

But Fr. Angel Calvo, a foreign missionary who also claims to have seen many forms of violence in Basilan, said the re-imposition of the death penalty was only "an indication of inutility and an act of frustration as if human beings cannot be redeemed."

"It's a sign of frustration on the side of the government that cannot find ways to control violence instead of bringing or guiding people to reform and change," Calvo said.

Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Rizal folk fear new increase in LPG costs

A GROUP of housewives in Rizal province yesterday expressed apprehension over a possible increase in prices of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) due to new penalties imposed on LPG refillers which the refillers had described as unjust.

Anna Marita Lim and Grace Punongbayan from Rizal province led a group of housewives expressing disappointment over the move of the Department of Energy to invoke a directive imposing heavy fines against refilling plants.

They vowed to rally behind the LPG Refillers Association of the Philippines Inc. (LPG-RAPI), an organization of 100 independent refillers of LPG tanks nationwide, to stabilize the prices of LPG.

In two letters to the INQUIRER, they said they hoped the Supreme Court would reaffirm the decision of Branch 161 Judge Alicia Mariño-Co of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court who declared the energy department's circular null and void.

Mariño-Co granted the petition of LPG-RAPI, headed by Bernardo Bolisay, to nullify circular 2000-06-010 issued by the Department of Energy.

She ruled in favor of Bolisay.

CORDILLERA FEAST EV ESPIRITU/PDI PHOTO

Igorot girls at a Grand Canao festival in Baguio City pore through Filipino comic books as they wait for their turn to perform at the festival.

DOLE to probe ILO report

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Department of Labor and Employment will validate an International Labor Organization report that Negros Occidental was listed as among eight areas in the country with the "worst form" of child labor.

Labor Assistant Secretary Ma. Anthonette Velasco-Allones said the ILO report was released as a bill seeking to strengthen the elimination of the worst forms of child labor ratified by a bicameral committee awaits the signature of the President so it could become law.

Allones, guest at the Sugar Industry Foundation Inc. Stakeholders Conference, said the ILO report was not new and she believed it was released to elicit public support for the new law to be immediately signed.

Also identified as "hot spots" for child labor aside from Negros Occidental were the National Capital Region, Bulacan, Camarines Norte, Iloilo, Negros Oriental, Cebu and Davao.

Fear of FPJ drags peso to 55.85:$1

From page A1

Thursday at the Philippine Dealing System. The local currency plunged minutes later to a record intraday low of 55.85, eclipsing the previous low of 55.750 on Jan. 17, 2001, during the political crisis that ended the Estrada presidency.

According to traders, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas was spotted selling $20 million when the peso hit 55.85. BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, denied the central bank had intervened.

Even so, the peso still closed at a new low of 55.69 to the dollar, beating the previous record closing low of 55.585 on Nov. 21 when Camacho announced his resignation as finance secretary effective Nov. 30.

Turnover reached $168 million, of which $118 million was traded in the morning.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said the currency market was overreacting to Poe's candidacy.

"The (forex) movements are not consistent with improvements in the economy. We are watching the market," Tetangco warned.

But James Malcolm, currency strategist at JP Morgan Chase in Singapore, and some traders said the peso might weaken further to 56 per dollar, a level they said at which most of the market's economic and political concerns would have been factored in.

A trader from a foreign bank said the peso was oversold at present levels, but he added it was "very hard to argue with a very negative sentiment."

"Just imagine the peso was just reacting to FPJ's announcement, what more if he wins," the trader said.

"The political risk is increasing and that is being reflected across all asset classes," said Philip Wee, currency strategist at DBS Bank in Singapore. "The peso likewise will remain vulnerable from here to elections next year."

Buenaventura, who conceded that the peso would remain "at these levels while things have not settled down," refused to blame Poe solely for the peso's fall.

"Let us be fair to everyone. We cannot attribute what happened today to any particular person but to a series of events that happened in the last few weeks. In fact, this started from the Oakwood mutiny, the suspension of BSP officials by the Court of Appeals, the impeachment of (Chief Justice Hilario) Davide (Jr.) and the resignation of Camacho," he said.

Buenaventura and other analysts urged Poe to immediately reveal his economic plans and name his economic advisers to calm a nervous market.

Stocks down

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index—a barometer of business confidence—also ended with a loss of 24.94 points, or 1.9 percent, at 1319.42, its worst sell-off this month. Decliners led gainers 33 to 15, while 38 issues were unchanged.

"The bigger factor behind this selling is the prospect of a rating downgrade by Moody's, while Poe's candidacy also caused some nervousness among investors," Westlink Global Equities chair Rommel Macapagal said of the decline in share prices.

Economist Benvenuto Icamina of the Wallace Business Forum, a consultancy for multinationals, said the market reaction reflected the business community's uncertainty over Poe's candidacy.

"As of now, he doesn't have the benefit of the doubt. He has to dispel those perceptions of him by showing that he is capable," said Icamina.

Poe has aggravated these concerns by refusing to disclose his platform of government, merely saying he would release the names of his economic advisers later.

"As a candidate, that is the minimum requirement. You have to justify your running, not just run because the people love you," said Icamina.

AB Capital Securities economist Jose Vistan told Dow Jones Newswires that the Moody's report had a more profound impact on the stock market and may be related to Camacho's resignation.

"The (possible) Moody's downgrade will likely boost the borrowing costs of the country," Vistan said. "My worry really is that Moody's will make good on its warning. Hopefully, the government can give some comfort to them (Moody's). Camacho was good at doing that."

"It also sends a signal to investors that the Philippines is a less attractive investment destination," Vistan said.

At the same time, Poe's candidacy has made investors cautious because the market does "not know what he is going to offer, given he is inexperienced" in political terms, said BPI Securities analyst Roberto Cano.

"The market was already going lower after the 1,380 support was broken. The last few days it was trying to recover but I think (Poe's candidacy) added pressure," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the negative reaction of the financial markets was temporary.

"We have good economic fundamentals that will prevail in the long run," Bunye said. *With reports by Doris C. Dumlao, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., AP, AFP, and Reuters*

Economy grew by 4.4% in 3rd quarter

From page A1

riod last year.

President Macapagal-Arroyo took credit for the economy's growth.

"Macro-economic fundamentals and sustained agriculture modernization are paying off. Fiscal prudence has kept the deficit within reasonable ceilings. Overseas remittances are on the rise," Ms Macapagal said in a phone patch during the announcement of the economic growth figures by the National Economic and Development Authority.

'Judicious resolution'

The President said her "judicious resolution" of the July 27 Oakwood mutiny had helped maintain political stability even as the electoral fever was starting to rise.

"There is good news even in the international economy given the spending growth in the US. Our export growth will be sustained not only in the fourth quarter but in the first quarter of 2004. I think economic performance will rise above the political noise," Neda Deputy Director Rafael Lotilla said.

Confidence

Ms Macapagal said the continuing confidence in her administration led to a surge in foreign and local investments. She said she would further bolster the economy by pushing for tax reforms specifically the indexation of taxes on cigarettes and liquor and by pursuing peace and security.

"The big turnaround of agriculture, fishery and forestry, the continuing resiliency of the services sector and the sustained growth of industry, particularly manufacturing, all contributed to overcome the perils to the economy of the political instability and national security threats brought about by the failed Oakwood mutiny," Romulo Virola of the National Statistics Coordination Board said at a press briefing.

"Given the year-to-date performance, the economy is now assured of attaining the GDP low-end forecast of 4.2 percent and the high-end of the GNP forecast range of 5.4 percent," Lotilla said.

Favorable weather

Agriculture, which accounts for about 20 percent of GDP, expanded 5.5 percent compared with the 4.2 percent forecast in the third quarter on the back of strong growth of *palay*, fishery and forestry. Favorable weather conditions helped the agriculture sector's growth, which marked a turnaround from the 0.4-percent contraction in the same period last year.

Lotilla noted that services grew at a faster pace of 5.5 percent, up from the projected 5.1 percent and the 5 percent growth a year ago, as a result of the stronger-than-expected rebound of government services.

In the third quarter, the government went on budgetary overspending to boost the economy to take advantage of the improved revenue collections.

Construction contracts

However, the industry sector lagged behind, growing by a modest 2.3 percent compared with the 4.4 percent a year ago. It was weighed down by the decline in public construction and slow recovery of exports.

Construction contracted 10.7 percent, a reversal of the 3-percent growth a year ago.

Merchandise exports dropped 0.6 percent in the third quarter, its first contraction since the second quarter of 2002.

Noteworthy development

But one noteworthy development, Lotilla said was the strong 7.7-percent growth in investments, in turn fueled by the 19.8-percent rise in spending for durable equipment.

"The investments are taking place in agriculture, textile, sugar milling, pulp and paper, railway and water transport, and office machines. These investments are seen to increase the competitiveness of and productivity in these industries and enhance the country's export performance," Lotilla said.

He also said personal consumer spending continued to be a strong leg of the economy, reflecting continuing consumer confidence. "For the fourth quarter, GDP is projected to grow at a slower pace of 3.8-4 percent as agriculture growth normalizes in the fourth quarter and due to a base effect given the strong growth last year arising from a bumper agriculture harvest," Lotilla said.

"Industry and services are expected to grow respectably, bolstered by better export performance, and higher public spending to make up for the first semester underspending," he said.

Agriculture is projected to grow by 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter; industry, 2.4-2.6 percent; and, services, 4.9-5.3 percent.

Biazon bolts LDP, hits 'confusion'

From page A1

"We need to reevaluate how we relate to our electorate, who put politicians in power on the basis of the possession of these four ... and when I say popularity, I think that has reference to the practice of electing people because of popularity (alone)," he said. "I would like us to divorce ourselves from the curse of idolatry that is practiced by our electorate."

Poe factor?

Asked whether movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s bid for president was a factor in his leaving, he said it was more of "the circumstances of the declaration (of Poe's) ... which could only emphasize a division in the party."

"The processes are not known to us," he added. "There are no consultations ... these are the circumstances."

Asked whether he had met with Poe already, Biazon said yes, but did not elaborate.

In the interview before the press briefing, he said he was looking for a leader who could truly unite the country. He did not find such a leader among the LDP's presidential choices, he added.

In his news conference, he described the ideal qualities in the next president.

"We're looking for a leader who is less confrontational, less adversarial and less vindictive," he said.

Resignation letter

In his letter of resignation to Sen. Edgardo Angara, LDP president, Biazon said "circumstances and conditions" had compelled him to decide to go on leave.

"While I give high value to loyalty to the party, I cannot set aside what I see as a cause of concern in the internal affairs of the party," he said. "By going on leave, I would like to step back and have a more objective view of the state of affairs in the LDP."

The party is currently split on the choice of its standard-bearer, with majority of LDP congressmen favoring Sen. Panfilo Lacson, an LDP member, while party leaders led by Angara and Sen. Vicente Sotto III support Poe.

A member of LDP since 1992, Biazon said he now plans to run as a candidate of the "independent opposition" when he seeks reelection in the May 2004 polls.

Open door

He was elected to a three-year term in the Senate in 1992, lost because of "dagdag-bawas" anomalies in 1995, and returned to the upper chamber for a full six-year term in 1998.

Biazon said he would not close the door to the possibility of his forging alliances with other parties.

What would make him reconsider his decision to go on leave, he said, was if either Angara or businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco would run as the opposition's standard-bearer.

The senator said he had been considering going on leave since Monday, but he met with Angara only on Wednesday night to finally say he had made up his mind.

Sotto said Biazon's decision was an "unfortunate" move with the elections just six months away.

"I would like to take it as (his) merely weighing his options," Sotto said in a news conference.

He denied there was confusion in the party, pointing out that party leaders were mandated to unify the opposition with other parties and form a process to choose its candidates for the 2004 elections.

"So I can't see the confusion," Sotto said. He also said he doesn't see the party moving toward a split.

Winnability

In the morning interview, Biazon said he was urging the public not to vote for a candidate on the basis merely of good looks, logistics or "winnability."

"(A candidate wants to appear) closer to them when he is not," he said, again without elaborating.

He told the INQUIRER he was asking himself whether he should really run again.

"Even if I don't win, as long as I can make a little difference," he finally said.

Meanwhile, Muntinlupa City Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon said he had no plans of leaving the LDP, despite his father's decision.

"Not me. I'm independent from the decision of Senator Biazon. His decision is his," the younger Biazon told the INQUIRER.

He said his father told him about his decision to leave the LDP two days ago and he respected his decision.

The congressman stressed that he and his father were independent of each other and that they had different constituencies to consider. *With a report from Cynthia Balana*

Opposition scrambles to avert clash between 'Da King' and Ping

From page A1

"Hopefully, on the next meeting [of the committee] on Sunday, we would be able to come up with a formula, if not an agreement, on how to come up with a unified candidate," Sotto said yesterday at a news conference.

Enrile told the INQUIRER that both Poe and Lacson were "reasonable men, but eventually one of them has to give way."

"It's just a question of accommodation," Enrile said, adding that the two men were the "principal contenders" in the opposition's selection process.

"One of them will most likely be the standard-bearer," he said.

The other committee members are Sotto, Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Horacio "Boy" Morales and San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

Lacson had earlier said that he would not slide down to vice president. Sotto had also said that Poe would run only for president.

Dec. 3

His dialogue with Poe may take place on Dec. 3, according to Lacson who met with the actor on Nov. 14 at the latter's residence in San Juan.

Sotto told reporters that he had informed Poe of the proposed date.

Lacson said in a phone interview that he wanted to meet with Poe to "resolve our problem."

Asked what he expected from the dialogue, the senator said he hoped they would be able to "devise a way to unify the opposition."

He said he had been told that the opposition leaders who met Wednesday night believed that he and Poe were the "best persons to resolve the seeming conflict."

Sotto said it was Butz Aquino who suggested the dialogue between Poe and Lacson.

If nothing comes of the meeting, "it would be back to the drawing board" for the Enrile-led committee, Sotto said.

Angelito Banayo, Lacson's political adviser, told the ANC news channel that the committee would come up with a selection process acceptable to both Poe and Lacson.

"At the end of the day, it's not people like us ... who are going to determine what is a fair and just selection process. It's going to be these two candidates," said Banayo, who was present at the Wednesday night meeting along with former Sen. Francisco Tatad, Representatives Rolex Suplico and Didagen Dilangalen, and former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada.

Cojuangco

Enrile said Nationalist People's Coalition chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco had decided "not to get involved in the selection process."

He said Poe and Lacson needed to "talk to each other and iron out their problem."

Enrile expressed confidence that the opposition would be able to unite and had the time to do so.

He also pointed out that the opposition was "not controlled by just one political party" and was "composed of such groups as the Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino, PDP-Laban, LDP and maybe the NPC."

Frisco San Juan, president of the NPC, said it had yet to decide whether it would sever its ties with the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and support Poe.

"We have no decision yet on that as a party," San Juan told the INQUIRER.

The ex-congressman acknowledged that certain NPC members in the House of Representatives had expressed support for the actor.

"But they also said their decision would be subject to the decision of the party," he said. "If they don't follow the party line, we will drop them."

There are 58 NPC members in the House, and none in the Senate. Twenty governors and 23 city mayors are also with the party.

San Juan declined to comment on speculation that it was Cojuangco who was responsible for convincing Poe to seek the presidency in 2004. *(See story on Page A1.)*

Gringo's Guardians

Poe, Lacson, or whoever will be the opposition's standard-bearer in the May elections can count on the votes of the 600,000-strong Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc. (PGBI).

The group headed by Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan is throwing its support behind the opposition's presidential candidate, and is even offering the senator's National Recovery Program (NRP) as part of the candidate's platform of government, said PGBI spokesperson Ernie Macahiya.

"The PGBI will support whoever will emerge winner in the selection process," Macahiya said in a phone interview. "It can be Ping, Gringo, Nene [Sen. Aquilino Pimentel], or Da King himself."

Macahiya said Honasan, who declared his bid for the top post during the June launch of the Honasan Movement for President in 2004, and Pimentel had "made themselves available" for the selection process.

"For too long a time, this country has been led by graduates of the University of the Philippines. Where is the country today? Now is the time to elect someone who has more of the heart and common sense than the brain," said Macahiya, himself a UP alumnus.

Asked if he was referring to Poe, Macahiya said: "It could be ... if he wins in the selection process."

He said that once the opposition candidates for president and vice president had been selected, the PGBI would hold meetings with members nationwide and "appeal to them to support [those chosen]."

Coup d'etat

Macahiya, together with Honasan and 1,000 unnamed PGBI members, have been charged with coup d'etat for their alleged involvement in the failed mutiny of young officers and men on July 27.

The PGBI, which is among the four Guardians factions in the country, claims to have chapters in Riyadh, Hong Kong, Italy and North Carolina.

Macahiya said the PGBI would submit Honasan's NRP for consideration in the formulation of the opposition candidate's platform of government.

"Unlike the Makati Business Club (MBC), we will not question the opposition candidate's platform of government," he said. "We'll help design it by picking from the NRP. We'll submit that for consideration as part of the emerging program of the opposition."

Honasan's NRP includes "radical provisions" such as the mass retirement of military and police generals to give way to middle-level officers, and of judges found living beyond their means, Macahiya said.

He bristled at the MBC's challenge to Poe to present his program, saying: "Who are they to demand it? They will not vote for him, anyway. This is a trap for somebody who has indicated his desire to seek the presidency." *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

'THE PRESIDENTIABLES'

GMA, Roco, FPJ, Lacson to face business forum

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THE FOUR presidential aspirants are expected to appear at a forum hosted by the country's biggest business group to allow them to share their platforms.

"They have expressed interest in joining the forum with business leaders and we expect them to come prepared with their economic plans," said Sergio Ortiz-Luis, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Luis said the forum should provide the business community with a better feel of the candidates' stand on economic and social issues.

Confirmed attendance

He said the organizers decided to have the presidential candidates individually on stage especially at the open forum so that they would not be parroting or disputing each other's statements. He likened the format to a beauty contest in which contestants are asked to stay in an isolation room while waiting for their turn to answer a judge's question.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Sen. Raul Roco and Sen. Panfilo Lacson have confirmed their attendance at the forum, dubbed "The Presidentiables Meet with the Business Leaders" at the Manila Hotel, according to Luis.

FPJ not sure

Luis said top advisers of Fernando Poe Jr., who formally announced his candidacy Wednesday, said the action star had expressed keen interest in joining the forum.

"But we're still not 100 percent sure he would come because his advisers were still preparing FPJ's presentation to the businessmen," Luis said. The forum will serve as a baptism of fire for Poe in public speaking and provide the public with the first glimpse of how the action star talks and thinks.

Pardo with FPJ

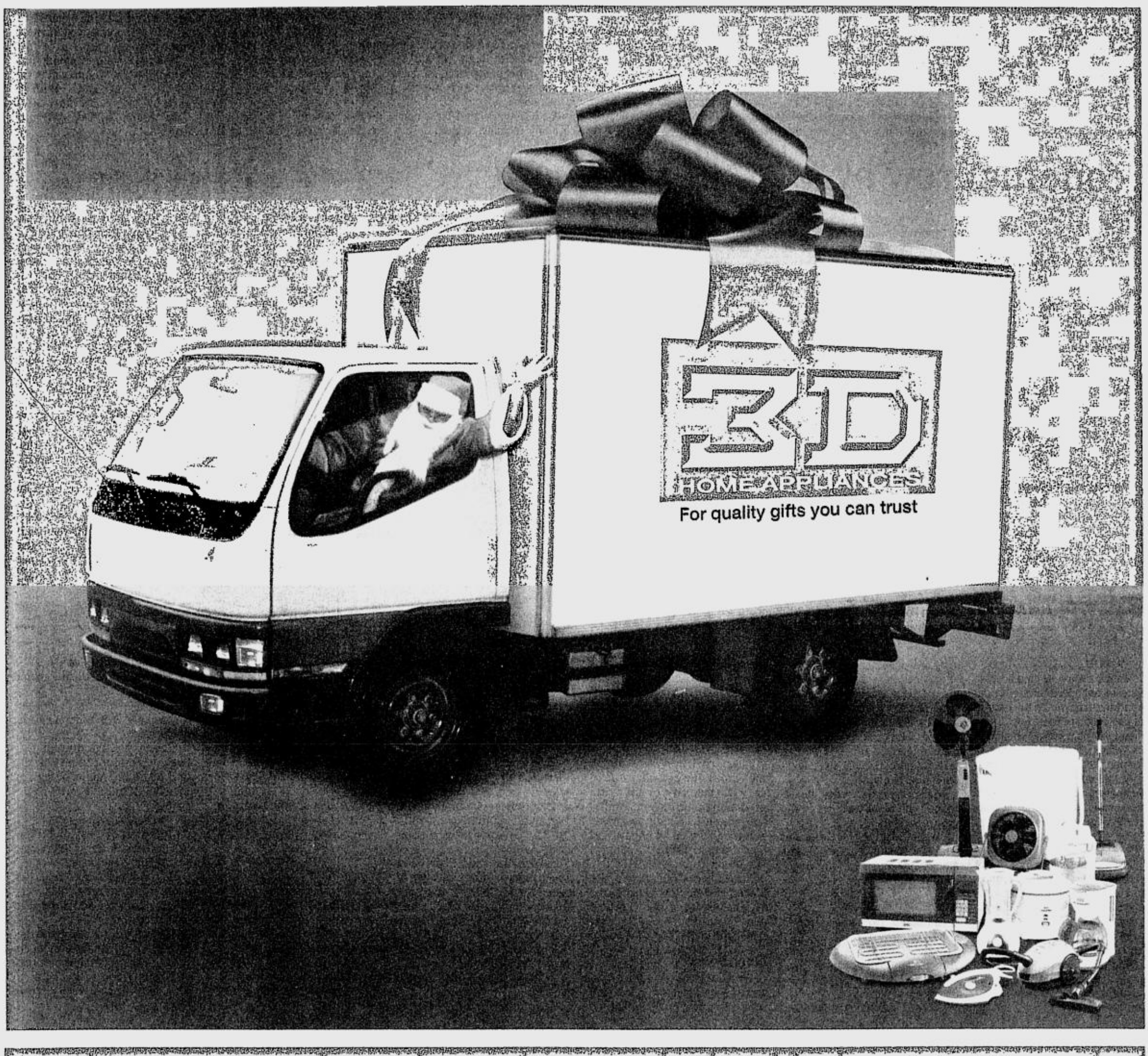
One of the economic advisers of Poe is former PCCI chair Jose T. Pardo, who served as secretary of trade and as finance during the Estrada administration.

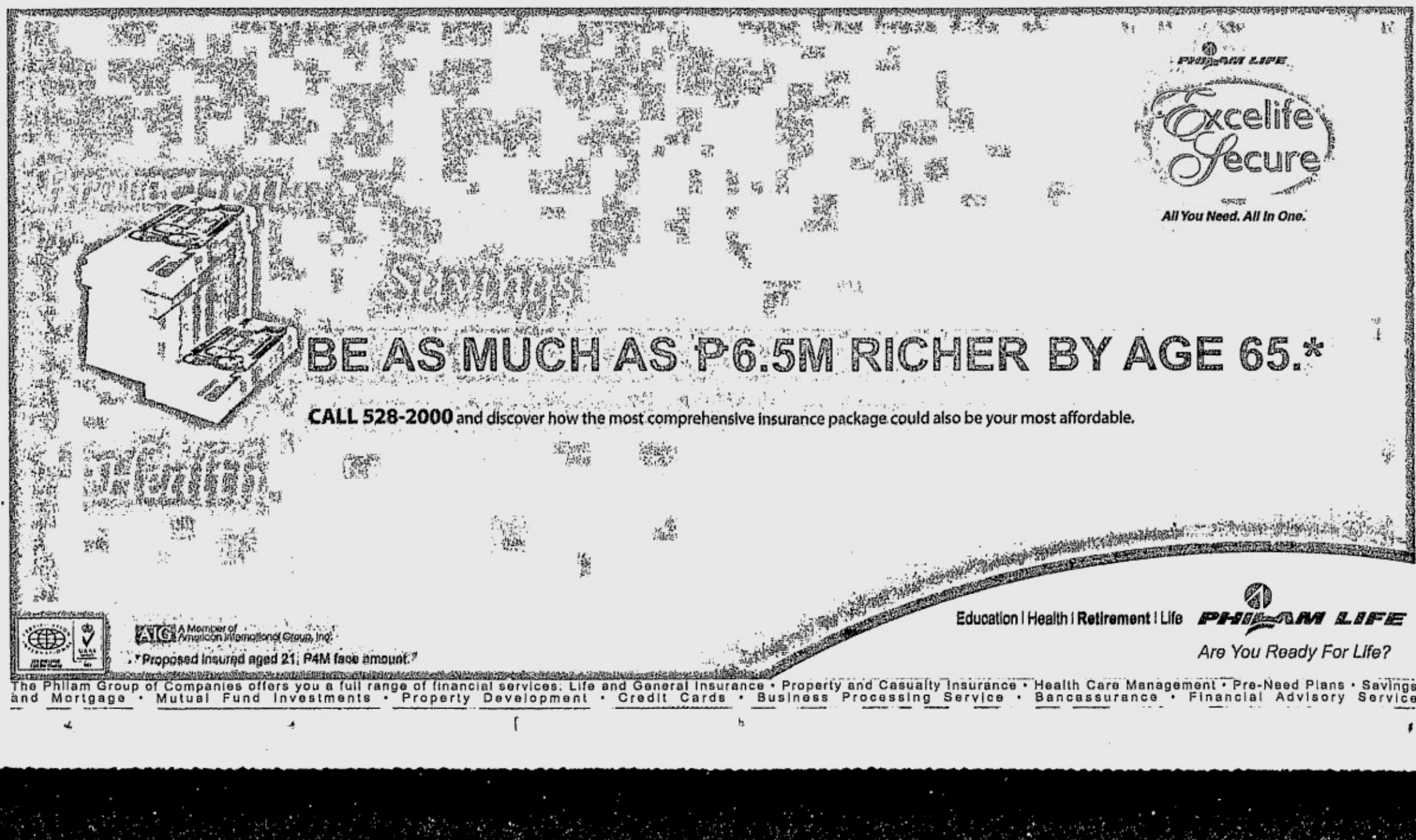
Each presidential candidate will speak on stage for one to two hours. They would be asked to first present their economic plans and vision.

Business panel

After which they would face a panel to be made up of Luis, Philippines Inc. chair Miguel Varela, president Jesus Arranza of the Federation of Philippine Industries, executive vice president Francis Chua of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc., president Donald Dee of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Franklin Isaac of the Financial Executive Institute's and columnist Teodoro Benigno.

Prior to Poe's announcement, Luis said the PCCI had scheduled the presentation in this order—Roco, Lacson and Ms Macapagal. Luis said Poe would kick off the forum if he agreed to join the forum.





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ANTI-CRIME CHECKPOINTS

Tinted cars are suspect

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

HEAVY tints on cars are supposed to keep the sun out and secure one's privacy. These, however, may just do the opposite.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco has ordered lawmen to give particular attention to heavily tinted vehicles as the police draw up plans to set up anti-crime checkpoints in Metro Manila.

In a memorandum, Velasco, who heads the National Capital Region Police Office, told his men to prioritize the inspection of vehicles whose occupants could not be clearly seen from the outside.

Heavily tinted cars are believed to better conceal armed men waiting for potential crime victims or victims of kidnappings.

In one instance, the heavy tints on a suspects' car were so effective that the police failed to see teenage kidnap victim Chalene Mayne Sy.

Sy was accidentally gunned down when the suspects in the car engaged police officers in a gun battle.

Downplaying fears that police checkpoints would lead to abuse, Velasco said motorists should be alert on which are legitimate and which are not.

Police checkpoints should be in well-lighted places, marked by the proper PNP signages and manned by properly uniformed police personnel.

Velasco told lawmen who would man the checkpoints to "practice utmost courtesy" and to uphold human rights.

Meanwhile, Northern Police District director Marcelino Franco urged motorists to cooperate during inspections "for everybody's safety."

"It would be easy if everyone will cooperate, especially those who have nothing to hide," Franco said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the setting up of checkpoints all over the country to thwart rising criminality.

METROBRIEFS

Nearly duped

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation have arrested and charged a Filipina for allegedly duping a Korean national by trying to sell him a piece of land that was not hers. The suspect, Ma. Theresa de Asis, had introduced herself as Diana Ramoso to Korean businessman Myung Koo Lee. She tried to sell a piece of land located along Edsa. But Myung found out that the land was not for sale. He reported the matter to the NBI, which set up an entrapment operation against De Asis. *Leila Salaverria*

Revenge killing

A 40-YEAR-OLD police asset who helped investigators arrest a known drug pusher was stabbed dead by the pusher and his friends right inside her home in Malate, Manila, early yesterday morning. The killers of Teresita Silverio casually walked away from the crime scene laughing after the attack around 2 a.m., witnesses told police. The suspects, one of whom was identified only as "Ambo," told the witnesses to remember that they "saw and heard nothing." *Leila Salaverria*

Fire guts factory

A THREE-HOUR fire razed a factory of rubber slippers in Caloocan City yesterday. Fire investigators estimated the damage at P5 million. No one was reported injured. The fire began at 5:15 a.m. at the assembly area of the Global Manufacturing Corp. at 282 Susano Road, Camarin, Caloocan City and quickly spread through the piles of rubber. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Petition junked

THE QUEZON City Regional Trial Court has dismissed the petition for a temporary restraining order filed by the employees of the National Food Authority to stop NFA administrator Arthur Yap from transferring the agency's central office to Pasig City. The NFA employees are opposing the lease contract entered into by Yap with the One San Miguel Condominium for allegedly being disadvantageous to the government. *Tina Santos*

Fatal argument

A BARANGAY kagawad was shot and killed by a fellow kagawad on Wednesday night during an argument over a busted lamppost. The victim, Rogelio Sapiandante, 48, of Tondo, Manila, died at the Mary Johnston Hospital after being shot by Dario Inutan, 50. The two are kagawads of Barangay 90, Zone 7, District I in Manila. Inutan surrendered to the police after the incident. *Leila Salaverria*

RP-Bulgaria rites

A PIANO recital will be held at 7 p.m. today at the Department of Foreign Affairs auditorium in celebration of 30 years of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and Bulgaria. The recital features Bulgarian piano virtuoso Georgi Trendafiloff. The affair is sponsored by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, Senate President Frank Drilon, and Bulgaria's honorary consul Rene L. Ledesma.

WPD: Tsinoys safe in Manila

By Tarra Quismundo

MANILA officials yesterday assured Filipino-Chinese businessmen that the city was safe.

"Our peace and order situation is not that bad," said Western Police District (WPD) director Pedro Bulaong.

He explained that it just so happened that a 10-year-old Filipino-Chinese girl was kidnapped and a Filipino-Chinese businessman was robbed and murdered in the city on Friday.

Bulaong, with his station commanders at hand, said these were "isolated" incidents as he pointed out the WPD's 97 percent crime solution rate in January and September.

He added that there had been a 27 percent decrease in the total crime volume in the city in the same period compared to last year.

But Filipino-Chinese businessmen from Binondo still expressed concern over their safety, especially in the commercial areas and schools.

Rufino Co of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club asked the police to increase visibility in schools during class hours, as this, he said, "would make kidnappers think twice."

Meanwhile, Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. said reports of bad peace and order situation in Manila could be "meant to sow fear among the public" as the national elections draw near.

Atienza also dispelled rumors that shops and schools in the Binondo area were closing down because Filipino-Chinese families and business groups sense threats to their safety.

Sing Seng, president emeritus of the Manila Chinatown Barangay Association, said that reports of Binondo residents planning on leaving the are not true.

3 cops selling stolen car held

By Christian V. Esguerra

THREE operatives of the Western Police District were arrested yesterday by members of the Traffic Management Group (TMG) for allegedly trying to sell a stolen car during an entrapment operation in San Fernando, Pampanga.

Caught selling a silver gray Toyota Altis (XHS 319) were SPO4 Proferio Divina, PO3 Edwin De la Cruz, and PO3 Jordan Villanueva, who were assigned at the Barbosa Police Community Precinct in Escolta, Quiapo, Manila. Their civilian companion, Harold Tamargo, was also arrested.

According to the report by TMG director Chief Supt. Danilo Mangila, the suspects tried to sell the 2002-model sedan to a police informant for only P150,000. The only condition was that the suspects would not have to produce documents pertaining to the ownership of the vehicle.

Suspecting that the car was stolen, the TMG in Region 3 set up an entrapment operation at the Petron gas station beside the North Luzon Tollways in San Fernando shortly afternoon yesterday.

The suspects yielded three 9-mm pistols and a maroon Nissan Safari (XHX 319) which was also believed to have been stolen.

3 hurt in demolition of Payatas shanties

By Tina Santos

THREE people were injured when residents put up a fight during the demolition of over a hundred houses in Payatas, Quezon City, yesterday.

Residents Marilou, Chona and Salustiana, all surnamed Pundario, were reportedly hit by rocks and were brought to the East Avenue Medical Center for treatment.

Violence erupted when demolition crew backed by Central Police District lawmen began dismantling houses along Espiritu Street in Payatas Area B at about 10 a.m.

Illegal dwellers reportedly began to throw rocks at the demolition team, prompting the stoppage of the operation.

Residents said they were not notified nor consulted prior to the demolition.

Urban Poor Associates, a non-government organization, said the Commission on Human Rights was set to file a case against the demolition team.

According to Gary Paniban, of KARAPATAN-NCR, a human rights organization, about 2,000 houses had already been demolished by the group since October.

The property is reportedly owned by a certain Juanito Puntanera

According to Eli Quinsay, Puntanera's representative, they had documents to prove their ownership of the land. He added that the residents were notified twice before the demolition.

PNP town chief slays subordinate

THE POLICE chief of a Bulacan town fatally shot a subordinate during an alleged confrontation, authorities said yesterday.

Supt. Edgardo de Leon, police chief of Meycauayan, was arrested after killing SPO4 Roberto Hufano late Wednesday at a road checkpoint, said provincial police chief Sr. Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr.

Serapio said Hufano allegedly fired his weapon indiscriminately the previous night.

Hufano allegedly then failed to report when summoned by De Leon about the incident.

De Leon proceeded to the checkpoint Wednesday night after learning that Hufano was there.

De Leon shot Hufano during an ensuing argument, Serapio said.

The police chief claimed self-defense, saying he just beat Hufano to the draw.

Serapio said De Leon was disarmed and detained and is facing charges. *AP*

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SPORTS

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AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

WHAT looks like a fight to get a vantage view of the action is actually an attempt by Harvey Carey of Talk 'N Text (foreground) to box out Reynel Hugnatan of Coca-Cola in their PBA Reinforced Conference match Wednesday.

Beermen, Tigers eye semifinal romp today

SISTER teams San Miguel Beer and Coca-Cola try to finish off their semifinal opponents today at the Cuneta Astrodome and arrange a championship showdown in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference.

Sporting 2-0 records over their struggling foes, the Beermen and the Tigers enter Game 3 of their respective best-of-five semifinal series not only with a sweep in mind but also a chance to end their season with aplomb.

The Beermen routed the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 101-86, before the Tigers turned back the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals, 109-105, Wednesday to move on the threshold of setting up a best-of-seven titular clash.

Based on statistics, 17 teams which took 2-0 leads in the last 34 semifinal pairings went on to advance to the Finals.

Ten of those 17 squads advanced by a sweep , four clinched the series in Game 4 and three were forced to a decider but still won.

"But it's not over until it's over. They came up with some adjustments in Game 2 and they will look for some more coming into this game,'" said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes. "I guess we'll just be ready for it."

The Tigers battled back from 21 points down in the second half through Poch Juinio, Rob Wainwright, Ato Morano, Rafi Reavis and Johnny Abarrientos on a night their import, Tee McClary, had gone stone cold from the field.

GAMES TODAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Coca-Cola
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Sta. Lucia

"That game was a game we were not supposed to win. It's pure heart and guts on the part of my players. They don't believe that they couldn't win," said Reyes.

The Tigers overcame Asi Taulava's monster performance and Damien Cantrell's last-minute heroics and also spoiled the return of Jimmy Alapag, who underwent surgery due to a fractured nose.

In the San Miguel Beer-Sta. Lucia Realty setto, SMB coach Jong Uichico has an outstanding edge against SLR's Alfrancis Chua in playoff matches in the past.

Uichico, who has steered the Beermen to five championships, has beaten Chua in their last eight playoff series since the 1999 Commissioner's Cup when SMB trounced Chua's Tanduay in the quarterfinals.

"They (Realtors) obviously have to beat us three in a row. It's going to be a tough job but it's not impossible," said Uichico, citing the Phone Pals' king-sized upset of the Tigers' in the All Filipino Cup Finals.

June Navarro

Time to shine for RP boxers says ABAP head

By Roy Luarca

FOR BOXING chief Manny Lopez, the time has come for his fighters to shine again.

"The objective is to regain supremacy in the peninsular level," said Lopez. "Our boxers have prepared long and hard for this and they're eager to do battle in the coming Southeast Asian Games."

The Filipino boxers are out to redeem themselves from the gold medal shutout they suffered in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEAG, where they accounted for two silvers and three bronzes.

This time, Lopez believes the nine-man RP-Revicon team is capable of snaring four golds in Ho Chi Minh City, where the boxing competitions will be held from Dec. 3-10.

Spearheading the boxers are light fly Harry Tañamor, gold medalist in the 1st Afro-Asian Games last month, and flyweight Violito Payla, Acropolis Cup and Gee Bee Tournament titlist.

Tañamor also won a silver in last year's Busan Asian Games.

Lopez again sees the Thais as the main stumbling block to the Filipinos' bid for boxing glory, with host Vietnam capable of springing up surprises.

Having fought in eight international tournaments before the SEAG, however, the Filipino boxers are well-equipped to hurdle the challenge.

The other ringsters are Francis Joven, Florencio Ferrer, Christopher Camat, Mark Jason Melligen, Joan Tipon, Juanito Magliquian Jr. and Roel Laguna.

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CAP-Southwoods everyone's target in Fil-Am golfest

CAP-MANILA Southwoods will be gunning for its fifth straight title and sixth overall in the centerpiece Fil division of the Fil-Am Golf Invitational kicking off this Monday at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay courses.

The youthful CAP-Southwoods team, bannered by back-to-back national champion Jerome Delariarte, remains the strong favorite although a strong buildup made by its chief rival, Mizuno-DHL, should significantly change proceedings.

There will be 74 teams in the Fil division and another 73 in the Am division as organizers limited this year's field to 147 teams, 17 of them from the United States, Asia and Australia.

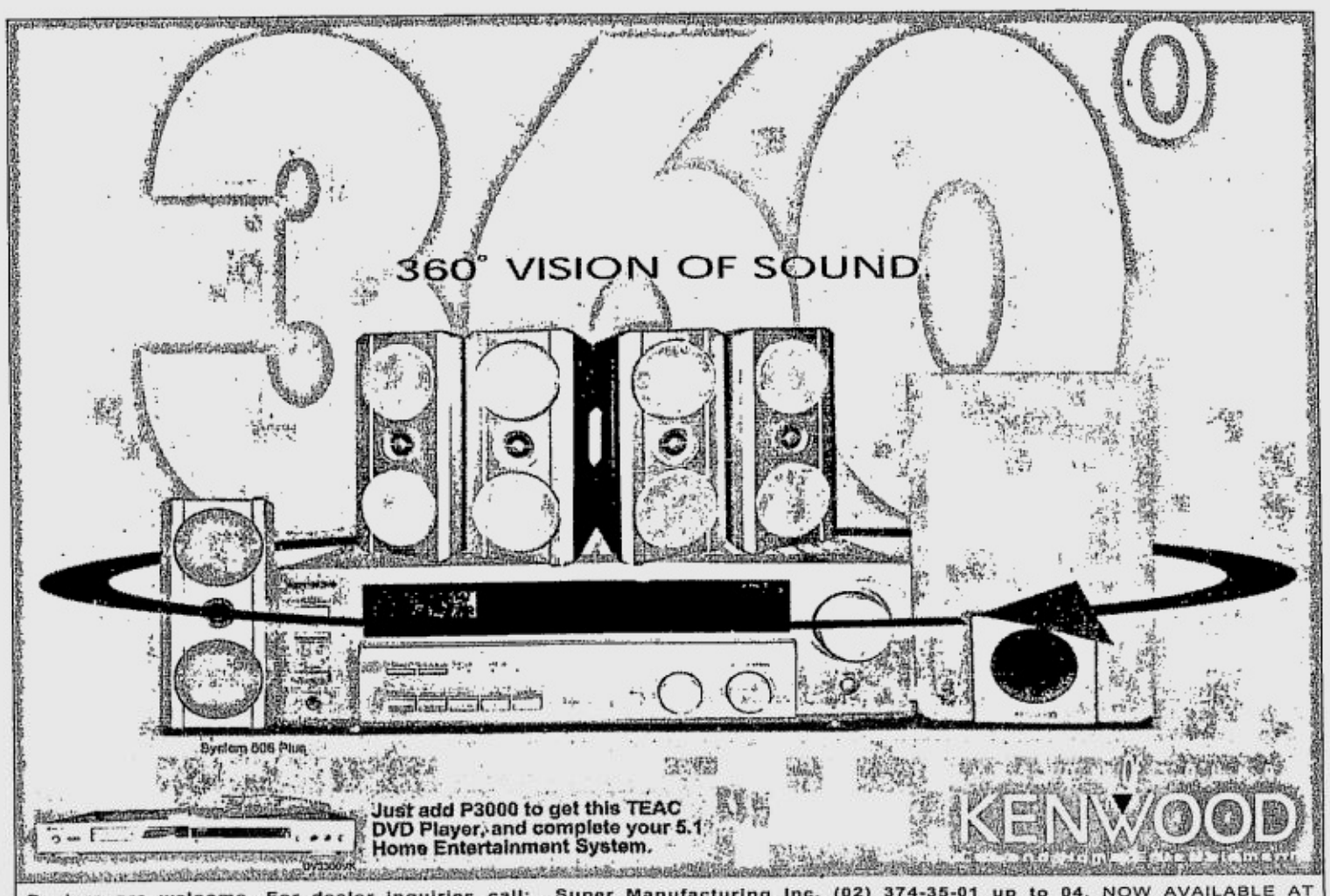
Delariarte will have a young backup crew that includes junior standout Tonlits Asistio, former national amateur champ Artemio Murakami, Gene Bondoc and Marc Lopez.

The CAP-Southwoods Am team is made up of Michael Bibat, Lyndon Barril, Juami Rocha, Hanson So and the veteran JunJun Plana.

"We have a very young team but I decided to field players like Tonlits and Michael to expose them early to tough competitions," Southwoods captain Thirdy Escano said.

Mizuno-DHL will be parading new recruits Tristan Tabanas and Erwin Vinluan to join Paul Miñoza, Marvin Dumandan and Romeo Jaraula in the Fil division.

Smart Communications Inc. is the tournament presenter while Northwest Airlines and Royal Caribbean International are major sponsors. The event allows five players per team with the best four scores counting each day. *Jong Arcano*



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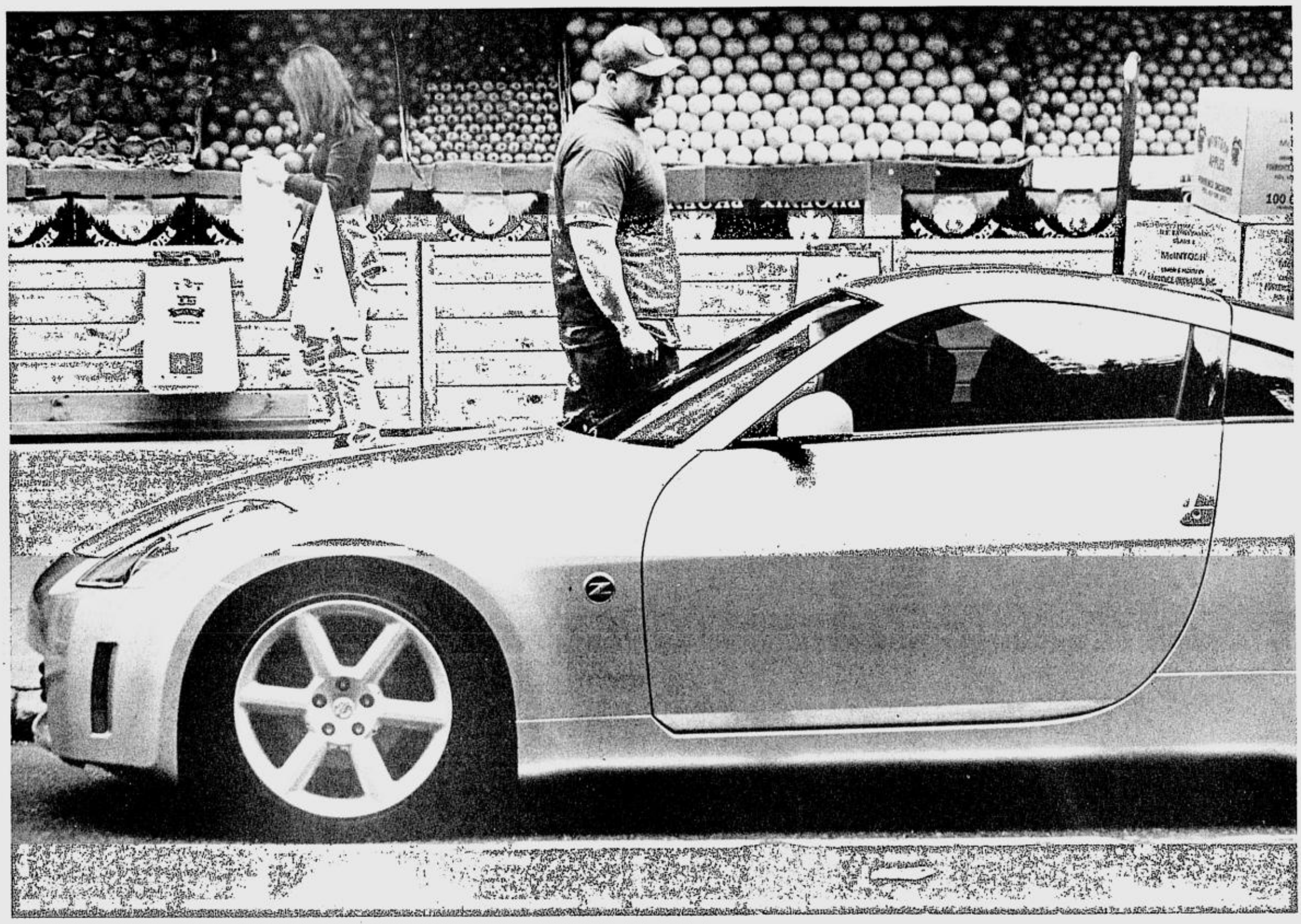

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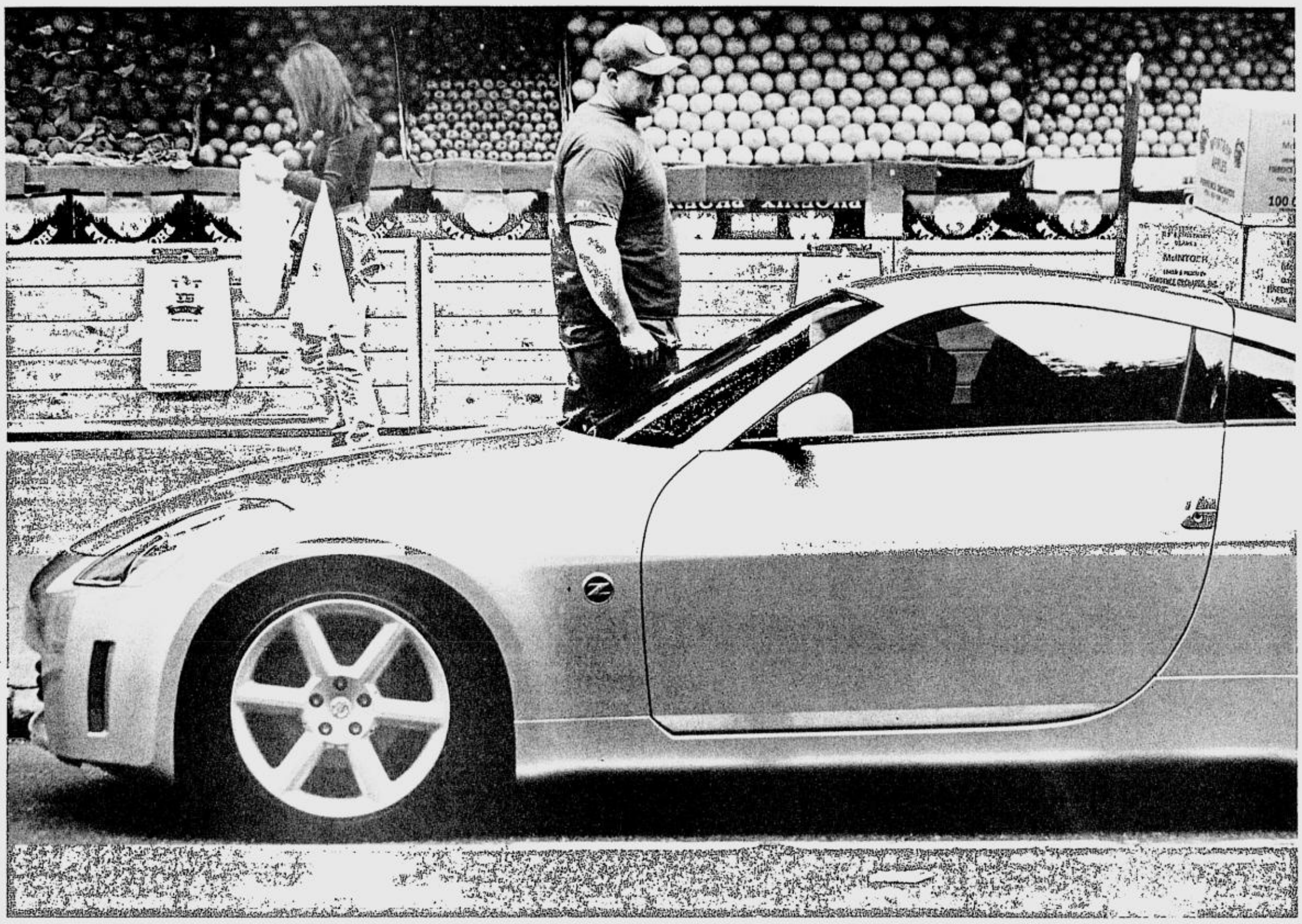

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Montaña dazzles ICTSI five

Sunkist nips Fash Liquid

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MONTAÑA Jewel needed just a burst of brilliance in the third quarter to dazzle ICTSI-La Salle, 82-74, yesterday and firm up its hold of second place in the PBL Platinum Cup at the UST gym.

National team mainstay Gary David sparkled in that stretch by scoring eight points in a 20-4 run by the Jewels, who went on to post their fourth win in six games.

Sunkist-UST leaned on the hot hands of Alex Compton to upset Fash Liquid Detergent, 69-63, in the second game.

Compton made all his six attempts from the three-point area in the first half to energize the Tigers, who tied their victims with a 3-3 slate.

Holding just a slim 42-41 advantage early in the third, the Jewels outhustled, outran and outshot the Archers to build a comfortable 62-45 margin that later swelled to as many as 21 points.

"We are trying to correct the mistakes we committed during our game against Welcoat," said coach Bong Go. "I'm glad the boys responded well to the adjustments we made.

It was an impressive comeback for the Jewels, who took a 94-66 whipping from idle solo leader Welcoat early in the week.

ICTSI, which fell to 2-4, whittled the lead to what it was in the end as Go rested his aces with victory no longer in doubt.

Go was slapped a technical foul after reacting to an offensive foul called on David with 55 seconds left.

Go actually started loosening up a few minutes before that when he pulled out his starters and allowed the Archers to connect from the three-point zone at will.

Scores:

First Game

MONTAÑA 82—Salvador 17, David 15, Altad 12, Magsumbol 9, Guerrero 8, Basco 8, Enrile 6, Baluyot 3, Mendoza 2, Coronel 2, Sayon 0, Manigo 0.

ICTSI 74—Yeo 22, Cardona 17, Thoss 8, Aldeguer 7, Ramos 6, Tang 4, Gavino 4, Jose 2, Uy 2, Cabalu 2.

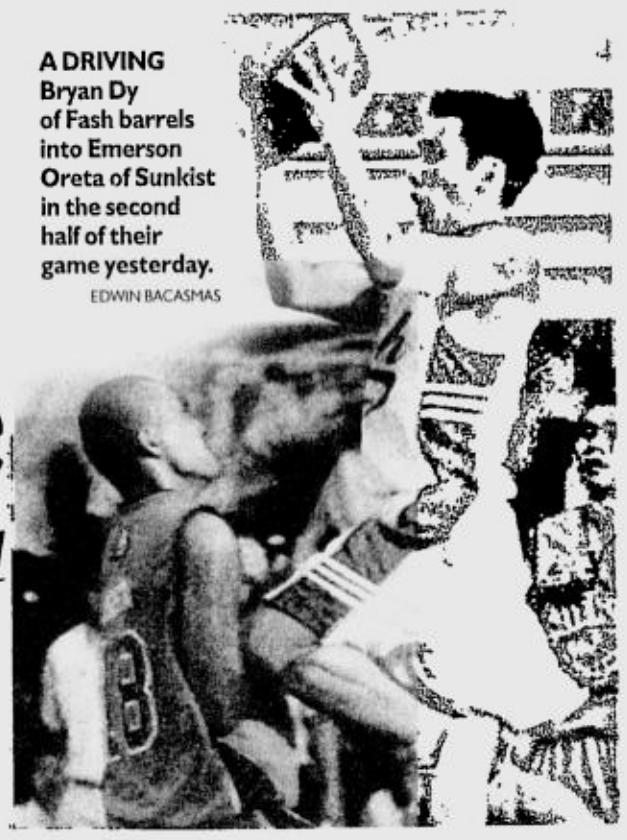
Quarters: 19-19, 39-35, 66-48, 82-74.

Second Game

SUNKIST 69—Compton 20, Vizcarra 15, Mendoza 10, Villamin 6, Oreta 6, Hubalde 5, Luanzon 3, Franco 2, Espiritu 2, Santos 0, De Guzman 0.

FASH LIQUID 63—Simon 19, Mercado 14, Fonacier 8, Gonzales 5, Benedicto 4, Gelig 4, Alvarez 3, Tan 2, Salangsang 2, Bugia 2, Moore 0, Tenorio 0, Dy 0, Dualan 0.

Quarters: 21-16, 35-29, 52-46, 69-63.



A DRIVING Bryan Dy of Fash barrels into Emerson Oreta of Sunkist in the second half of their game yesterday. EDWIN BACASMAS

Miñoza fires 68 in strong Casio start

OUT to end a series of struggling finishes, Frankie Miñoza opened his bid in what could be his final event of the season with a 4-under-par 68 yesterday to stay just three shots off the pace in the $1.28-million Casio World Open 2003 in Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan.

Miñoza, who had placed no better than 35th in his last eight outings, scattered five birdies on the first 14 holes before picking up his first and only bogey for the day on the 15th at the Kaimon course of the Ibusuki Golf Club.

He was in a tie for fifth place with three others, not too far behind the pacesetting Katsumune Imai, who fired a 65 built around a 30 in the back nine.

Two shots behind at 67 were Dinesh Chand, Soushi Tajima and Koki Idoki.

Swede Sophie Gustafson, the first LPGA campaigner to compete in the Japan Tour, carded a 74.

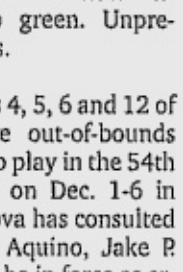
Miñoza's big start puts him on target for only his second top 10 finish in the last two years. He tied for ninth in the Sun Chlorella Classic last August.

The Casio World Open is the second biggest leg of the Japan Tour, next only to last week's Dunlop Phoenix Open.

Jong Arcano

Memorizing Mimosa

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

THE MIMOSA Golf & Country is now being readied for the 88th DHL Philippine Open on Feb. 12-15. The course has four nines, two of them belonging to the Mountainview layout. The nine near the clubhouse is called Acacia to pay homage to the giant acacia trees dotting both sides of most of its fairways. The fourth nine is called Lakeview, so named for its man-made lakes snaking around it.

Two of Mimosa's four nines will be used for the 2004 Open. The organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) is presently taking a serious look at all four nines and will next come up with a composite course to be used for the DHL Open, which will be held in cooperation with the WWW Worldwide Express.

A team from the NGAP led by Benny Gopez, chair of the organizing committee, has played Mimosa three times already. It was actually a work-and-leisure thing for Benny & Co. Benny, tasked with the delicate job of having the final say on the last 18 holes for the DHL Open, has brought along no less than NGAP president Rod Feliciano, NGAP vice president Admiral Louie Fernandez (ret.) and NGAP auditor Commodore Danny Pizarro (ret.), among others, to test Mimosa's four nines on separate occasions.

Memorizing Mimosa's twists and turns is like memorizing the lines of a carpenter's palm: as complex as the Los Angeles freeway.

"It's a big challenge but I love it," said Benny. "We are preparing a course that should possess world-class standards as some of the top guns from Asia and the rest of the world are coming over expecting a layout that will test their skills to the limit."

For his part, Clark Development Corp. (CDC) president/CEO Manny Angeles has thrown his support behind Benny Gopez, who has temporarily put his business concerns on hold if only to ensure that Mimosa would be in tip-top shape come the DHL Open next year.

Benny knows he is facing a tough job. But knowing the guy, he is no stranger to challenges. He has been at it several times in the past; each time, he passed the test with flying colors.

The general feeling is, Mimosa is chicken feed to the top guns of the game. Participants of the 88th DHL Philippine Open will eat it alive.

I agree. I have played Mimosa several times this year and I know an easy course when I see one.

But therein lies the challenge. Mimosa will be a completely different course come the DHL Open. Wait till Benny is through rearranging it.

No two courses are alike. An easy course can be made difficult and a difficult course can be made easy. That's universal. Thus, Benny and his DHL Open Team are wracking their brains up, looking for the right mix to present a course that isn't that easy but at the same time not that difficult, too.

"An easy hole can be easily made into a hell hole," said Benny. "You can narrow the fairway down, reduce the size of the green, thicken the rough, plant the flagstick at the edge of the green, make a par-5 into a par-4, anything."

In short, there is never an easy course but there's always a course that can either be made easy or difficult. To anyone who knows golf, most world-class tournaments have always been a battle between the participants and the organizers. No organizer in his right mind would want his arena to be bludgeoned to death without putting up a fight.

Thus, when Mimosa is finally ready for the 88th DHL Philippine Open, expect it to be in fighting form. I should know. I know Mimosa's grass—from tee to green. Unpredictable as Philippine politics.

***

FASTBREAK. It's final. Holes 4, 5, 6 and 12 of Camp John Hay will have out-of-bounds markings in a bid to speed up play in the 54th Fil Am Golf Championship on Dec. 1-6 in Baguio. CJH's Jeric Hechanova has consulted with Taby Tabaniag, Toots Aquino, Jake P. Ayson and me for the OBs to be in force as errant tee shots on those holes could result in heavy traffic during the tournament. Wise decision, I'd say. The big number of participants (nearly 800 players) could clog up the fairways and derail smooth play so that there's need to adopt radical changes. We will also review Baguio Country Club today and we'll also do the same should we find similar situations. Our advice: Every Fil Am player should play the course as he finds it, without undue delay . . . On a sad vein, my family and I condole with Danny Dalena and his brothers, sisters and other relatives for the passing of their Nanay yesterday in Pakil, Laguna. Nanay Luling's remains lie at the family residence in Pakil, Laguna. Many will miss Nanay Luling (Loreto), a very jolly lady who had touched many, many lives, including mine many times over.

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2 RP underdogs oust ex-world champs

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE DEADLY Filipino billiards machine was in full force yesterday, claiming the scalps of two former world champions in the round of 32 of the 1st Café Puro RP Open at the Octagon Hall of the Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

Veteran Rene Cruz hinted of things to come when he ousted former world champion Ralf "Kaiser" Soquet of Germany, 9-3, to enter the final 16 of this $64,000 billiards event organized by ABS-CBN and Puyat Sports.

Inspired by Cruz's stunner, Bacolod-pride Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego shamed American Earl Strickland, 9-1, also a former world titleholder, to lead the charge of local talents.

The top guns also didn't disappoint.

Efren "Bata" Reyes outplayed Taiwanese Chun Chang Liu, 9-4, while Francisco "Django" Bustamante ripped Florencio Bañar, 9-3, to keep their chances alive for the $20,000 champion's purse.

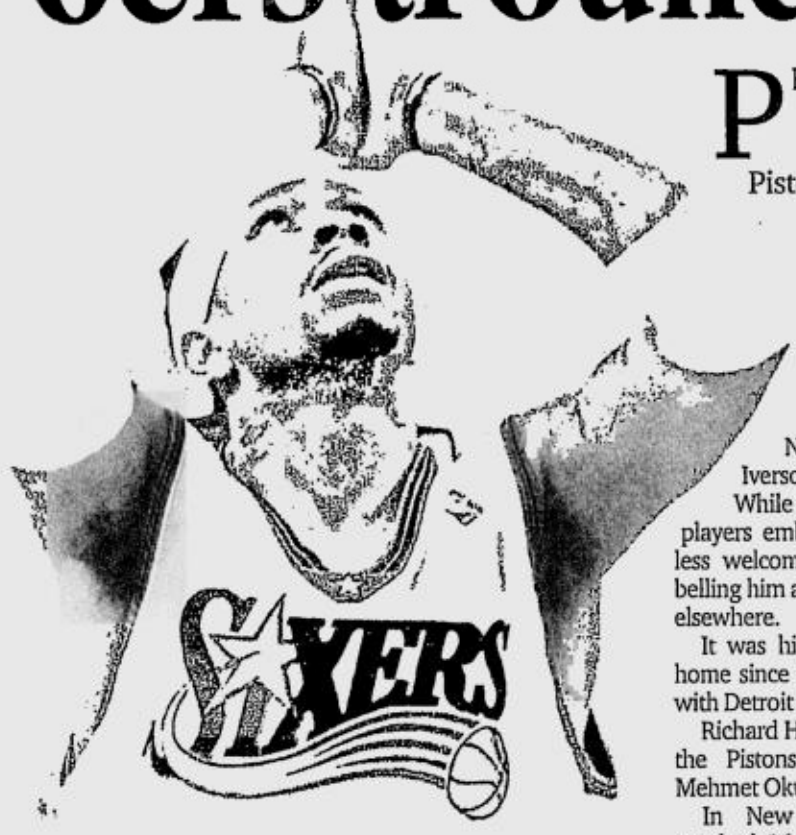
Thanks to his precise shotmaking and Strickland's erratic game, the 37-year-old Gallego raced to a 5-0 lead, from which the temperamental American never recovered.

"I kept my concentration all throughout the game," said Gallego, who finished second in the 2001 Japan Open, where he also beat Strickland.

Cruz actually came from the losers' bracket after dropping his first game to Antonio Lining last Wednesday. But he rebounded by beating Al Ortega, 9-8, Katsushi Hoshi, 9-5, and Jun Briones, 9-3.

Other results: Chia C.W. (Chinese-Taipei) d. M. Chamat (Sweden), 9-8; Park S.Y. (South Korea) d. M. Manalo, 9-6; C. Deuel (US) d. J. del Mazon, 9-6.

76ers trounce Pistons



IVERSON acts as if he is praying after being called for turning over the ball against the Pistons. REUTERS

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson notched 30 points on 12-of-23 shooting as the Philadelphia 76ers defeated former coach Larry Brown's Detroit Pistons, 90-86, in NBA play on Wednesday.

Kenny Thomas added 15 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the 76ers.

Brown was Sixers coach from 1997-2003, taking Philadelphia to the NBA Finals in 2001, when Iverson earned MVP honors.

While Iverson and other former players embraced Brown, fans were less welcoming from the outset, labelling him a traitor for plying his trade elsewhere.

It was his first visit to his former home since he signed a five-year deal with Detroit after last season.

Richard Hamilton was top scorer for the Pistons with 19 points, with Mehmet Okur adding 17.

In New Orleans, Baron Davis notched 26 points and David Wesley added 21 as the Hornets dumped the Cleveland Cavaliers, 82-72, handing them their 30th straight road loss.

The game was Paul Silas' first against the team he coached for five seasons before being fired in May.

Rookie sensation Lebron James had 15 points to keep Cleveland close.

Ricky Davis accompanied the Cavs, but did not see any action.

In Orlando, Paul Pierce poured in 30 points, 15 in the final period, to pace the Boston Celtics to a 94-92 win over the reeling Magic, who dropped their 14th straight game.

Vin Baker added 19 points as the Celtics snapped a four-game losing skid.

Orlando was led by the ailing Tracy McGrady, who notched 24 points despite suffering from the flu.

In Atlanta, Vince Carter hit a jumper with a second on the clock, giving him a season-high 43 points, as the Toronto Raptors edged the Hawks, 99-97, in overtime.

Complete results: Boston 94, Orlando 92; Philadelphia 90, Detroit 86; Toronto 99, Atlanta 97 (ot); New York 97, Minnesota 92; New Orleans 82, Cleveland 72; San Antonio 109, Chicago 98; Phoenix 121, Dallas 90 ; Utah 83, Houston 76; LA Lakers 120, Washington 99. AP

Aguilar, Morales steer 7-year-old Civic to victory

SUBIC—Mike Aguilar and Renan Morales of Paragon Consultancy celebrated their new partnership in the motorsports scene by ruling the Goodyear Ducaro GA Enduro Cup 2003 before a big crowd at the Subic International Raceway.

Aguilar, 29, and Morales, 23, steered their trusty 1996 Honda Civic LXi to victory in the gruelling, four-hour endurance race organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI) as part of the annual Philippine Motorsports Festival.

Aguilar and Morales completed the four-hour long race around the 3.1-kilometer Subic track in 130 laps, five more than the three-man team of Angelo Barreto, Art Feliciano and Chuck Montecillo of C! Magazine-Car Shack and that of the team of Mike Potenciano, Monching Gutierrez and John Sambo of MP Turbo-Sambo Construction.

"This is a major achievement for both of us," said Aguilar, who lauded the fine performance of his new partner (Morales) and the excellent condition of their Honda Civic.

Sharing the limelight were Dominic Ochoa, Jeffrey Jan Borja, Kenneth Quintal and Kevin Limjoco of C! Magazine-Tuason Racing School, who dominated the novice category in a 2003 Ford Lynx; and Boyet and Jojie Policarpio, who topped the rookie category in a Nissan Sentra.

Ochoa and his partners completd the race in 121 laps, while Policarpio and his pal made it in 119 laps.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

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Adidas King of Road set

THE 5TH Adidas King of the Road fires off on Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Global City in Fort Bonifacio.

The annual 10-km race offers a total prize of P100,000 with the Adidas King and Queen of the Road getting P10,000 cash and P10,000 worth of gift certificate and a chance to represent the Philippines in the International King of the Road in Bangkok, Thailand, on Dec. 21.

Adidas will also award the top three placers in the Team category with P20,000, P15,000 and 10,000 worth of Adidas gift certificates. Running groups should have a minimum entry of 50 runners. However, only the clockings of the top 25 per group will be counted.

Special awards will also be given to the Team In Complete Uniform, Best In Uniform and Best Dressed runner.

The top male and female finishers in the age group categories (9-12, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39 and 40-above) will bring home Adidas gifts and medals.

Entry fee is P150. Registration is at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. on Annapolis Street in San Juan, Metro Manila.

SPORTSWATCH

La Salle Greenhills prevails

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

2 RP underdogs oust ex-world champs

By Dennis U. Eroa

THE DEADLY Filipino billiards machine was in full force yesterday, claiming the scalps of two former world champions in the round of 32 of the 1st Café Puro RP Open at the Octagon Hall of the Robinsons Galleria in Mandaluyong City.

Veteran Rene Cruz hinted of things to come when he ousted former world champion Ralf "Kaiser" Soquet of Germany, 9-3, to enter the final 16 of this $64,000 billiards event organized by ABS-CBN and Puyat Sports.

Inspired by Cruz's stunner, Bacolod-pride Ramil "Bebeng" Gallego shamed American Earl Strickland, 9-1, also a former world titleholder, to lead the charge of local talents.

The top guns also didn't disappoint.

Efren "Bata" Reyes outplayed Taiwanese Chun Chang Liu, 9-4, while Francisco "Django" Bustamante ripped Florencio Bañar, 9-3, to keep their chances alive for the $20,000 champion's purse.

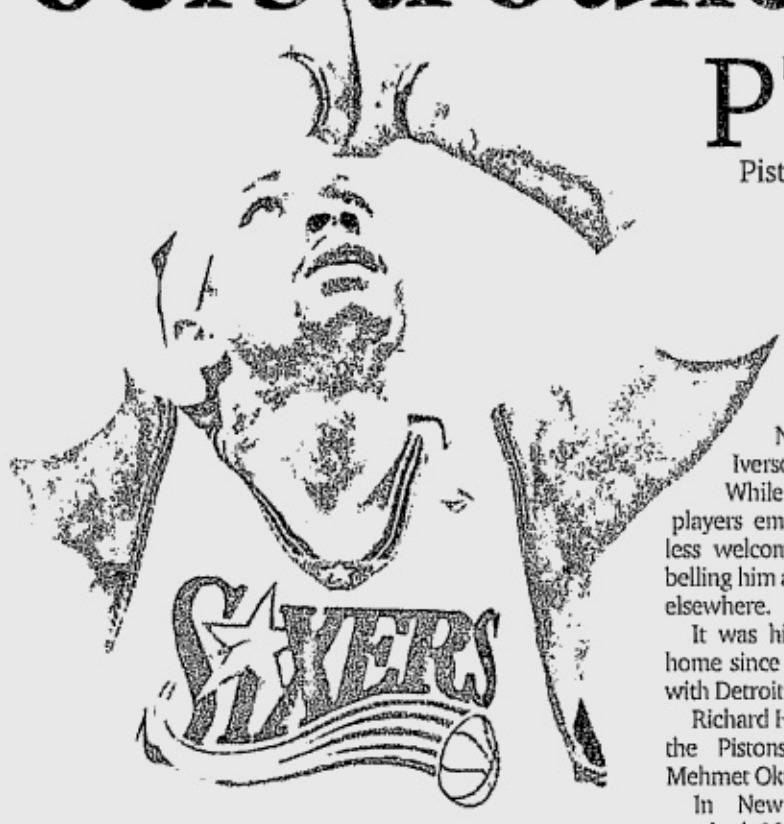
Thanks to his precise shotmaking and Strickland's erratic game, the 37-year-old Gallego raced to a 5-0 lead, from which the temperamental American never recovered.

"I kept my concentration all throughout the game," said Gallego, who finished second in the 2001 Japan Open, where he also beat Strickland.

Cruz actually came from the losers' bracket after dropping his first game to Antonio Lining last Wednesday. But he rebounded by beating Al Ortega, 9-8, Katsushi Hoshi, 9-5, and Jun Briones, 9-3.

Other results: Chia C.W. (Chinese-Taipei) d. M. Chamat (Sweden), 9-8; Park S.Y. (South Korea) d. M. Manalo, 9-6; C. Deuel (US) d. J. del Mazon, 9-6.

76ers trounce Pistons



IVERSON acts as if he is praying after being called for turning over the ball against the Pistons. REUTERS

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson notched 30 points on 12-of-23 shooting as the Philadelphia 76ers defeated former coach Larry Brown's Detroit Pistons, 90-86, in NBA play on Wednesday.

Kenny Thomas added 15 points and grabbed 13 rebounds for the 76ers.

Brown was Sixers coach from 1997-2003, taking Philadelphia to the NBA Finals in 2001, when Iverson earned MVP honors.

While Iverson and other former players embraced Brown, fans were less welcoming from the outset, labelling him a traitor for plying his trade elsewhere.

It was his first visit to his former home since he signed a five-year deal with Detroit after last season.

Richard Hamilton was top scorer for the Pistons with 19 points, with Mehmet Okur adding 17.

In New Orleans, Baron Davis notched 26 points and David Wesley added 21 as the Hornets dumped the Cleveland Cavaliers, 82-72, handing them their 30th straight road loss.

The game was Paul Silas' first against the team he coached for five seasons before being fired in May.

Rookie sensation Lebron James had 15 points to keep Cleveland close.

Ricky Davis accompanied the Cavs, but did not see any action.

In Orlando, Paul Pierce poured in 30 points, 15 in the final period, to pace the Boston Celtics to a 94-92 win over the reeling Magic, who dropped their 14th straight game.

Vin Baker added 19 points as the Celtics snapped a four-game losing skid.

Orlando was led by the ailing Tracy McGrady, who notched 24 points despite suffering from the flu.

In Atlanta, Vince Carter hit a jumper with a second on the clock, giving him a season-high 43 points, as the Toronto Raptors edged the Hawks, 99-97, in overtime.

Complete results: Boston 94, Orlando 92; Philadelphia 90, Detroit 86; Toronto 99, Atlanta 97 (ot); New York 97, Minnesota 92; New Orleans 82, Cleveland 72; San Antonio 109, Chicago 98; Phoenix 121, Dallas 90 ; Utah 83, Houston 76; LA Lakers 120, Washington 99. AP

Aguilar, Morales steer 7-year-old Civic to victory

SUBIC—Mike Aguilar and Renan Morales of Paragon Consultancy celebrated their new partnership in the motorsports scene by ruling the Goodyear Ducaro GA Enduro Cup 2003 before a big crowd at the Subic International Raceway.

Aguilar, 29, and Morales, 23, steered their trusty 1996 Honda Civic LXi to victory in the gruelling, four-hour endurance race organized by Sports Values Inc. (SVI) as part of the annual Philippine Motorsports Festival.

Aguilar and Morales completed the four-hour long race around the 3.1-kilometer Subic track in 130 laps, five more than the three-man team of Angelo Barreto, Art Feliciano and Chuck Montecillo of C! Magazine-Car Shack and that of the team of Mike Potenciano, Monching Gutierrez and John Sambo of MP Turbo-Sambo Construction.

"This is a major achievement for both of us," said Aguilar, who lauded the fine performance of his new partner (Morales) and the excellent condition of their Honda Civic.

Sharing the limelight were Dominic Ochoa, Jeffrey Jan Borja, Kenneth Quintal and Kevin Limjoco of C! Magazine-Tuason Racing School, who dominated the novice category in a 2003 Ford Lynx; and Boyet and Jojie Policarpio, who topped the rookie category in a Nissan Sentra.

Ochoa and his partners completd the race in 121 laps, while Policarpio and his pal made it in 119 laps.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

congratulates

PLDT

on its

75th year

Adidas King of Road set

THE 5TH Adidas King of the Road fires off on Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Global City in Fort Bonifacio.

The annual 10-km race offers a total prize of P100,000 with the Adidas King and Queen of the Road getting P10,000 cash and P10,000 worth of gift certificate and a chance to represent the Philippines in the International King of the Road in Bangkok, Thailand, on Dec. 21.

Adidas will also award the top three placers in the Team category with P20,000, P15,000 and 10,000 worth of Adidas gift certificates. Running groups should have a minimum entry of 50 runners. However, only the clockings of the top 25 per group will be counted.

Special awards will also be given to the Team In Complete Uniform, Best In Uniform and Best Dressed runner.

The top male and female finishers in the age group categories (9-12, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39 and 40-above) will bring home Adidas gifts and medals.

Entry fee is P150. Registration is at the ground floor of the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. on Annapolis Street in San Juan, Metro Manila.

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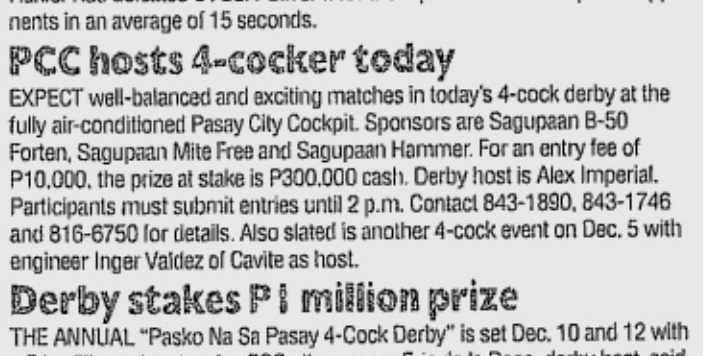

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Paro, Barcelona dispute vacant RP 'fly' crown

HARD-PUNCHING Cebuano fighter Sherwin Paro will try to redeem himself tomorrow when he shoots for the RP superflyweight crown against Bukidnon's Erik Barcelona at the Olivarez College Gymnasium in Sucat, Parañaque.

The 12-round clash topbills a card featuring Filipino against Japanese boxers.

In other bouts, WBC No. 1 lightweight contender Juanito Rubillar takes on Japanese Katsumi Makiyama, the East Japan Freshman Champion, in an 8-round encounter, while Baby Lorona Jr. battles Hidekazu Matzunoba, and Rolando Pritos takes on Masahiro Asami.

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

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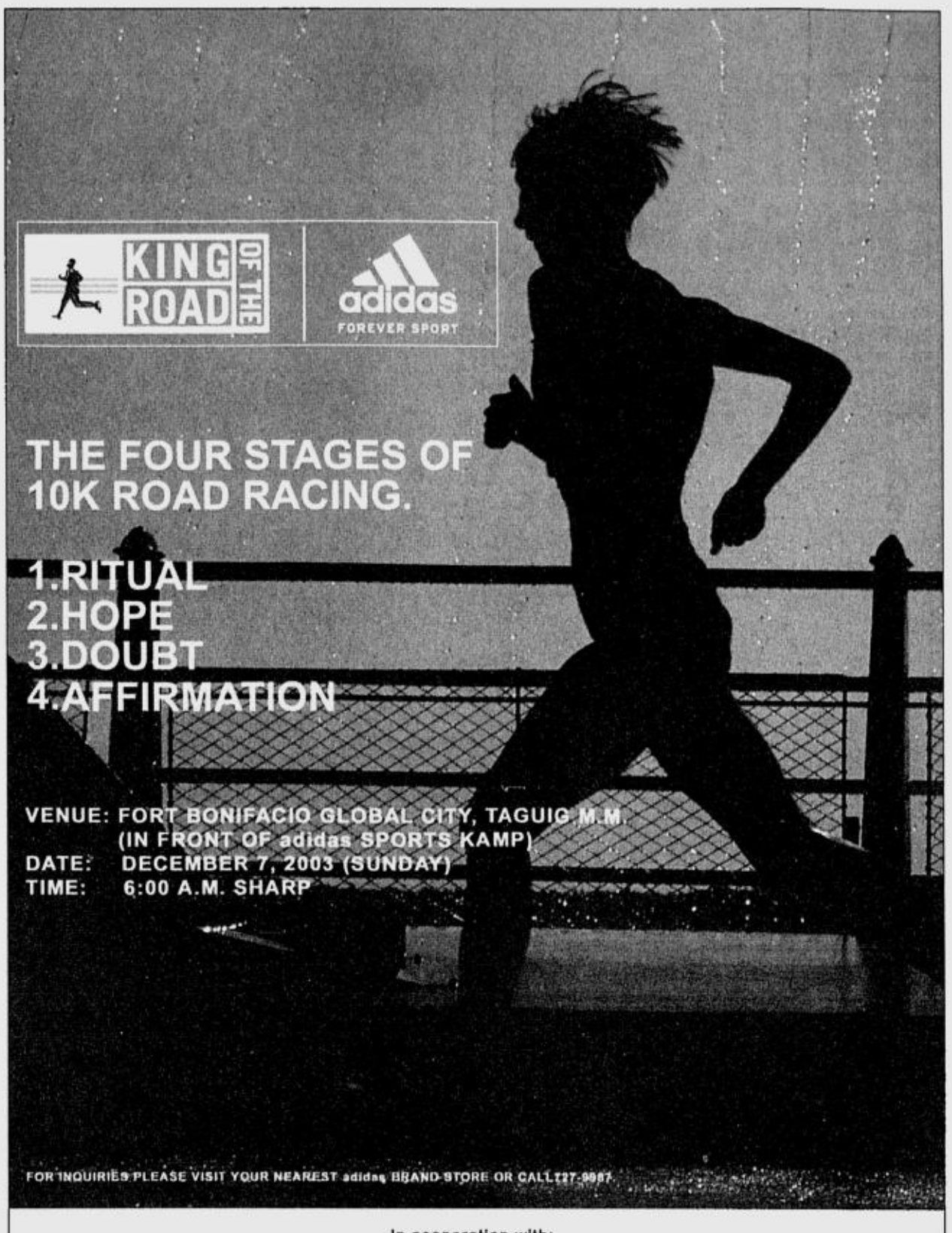

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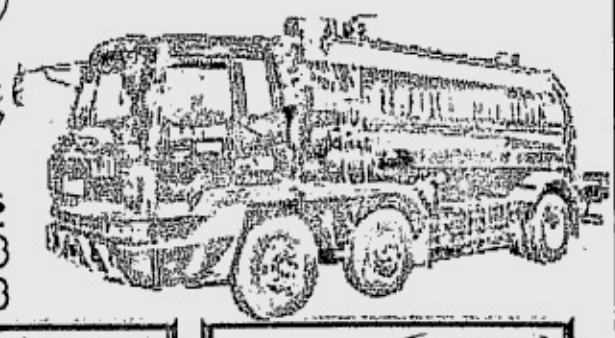

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SPORTS

Tour riders vying in P. Princesa races

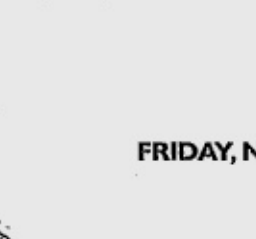
PUERTO Princesa City hosts this weekend its first ever cycling competition to cap the Tour Pilipinas road activities for the year.

No less than the top 50 riders of the Tour Pilipinas last June, including multistage winner and race favorite Bernard Luzon, are competing in the two-day Air21 Puerto Princesa City Cycling Challenge that offers P160,000 in prizes.

The individual winner of the Challenge will bring home P40,000, with the second-placer getting P30,000 and third-placer P25,000.

"The people are excited, we are excited [about the Challenge]," said Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn of the latest event he is hosting to underscore the city's reputation as the country's mecca of sports tourism.

The Challenge starts with a 160-km massed start race on an out-and-back course tomorrow (Nov. 29) and a 120-km circuit race over a 6-km layout on Sunday (Nov. 30).


LUZON

Bert Lina, chairman of Air21 and president of the Integrated Cycling Federation of the Philippines or PhilCycling, will flag off the riders with Hagedorn.

Both Air21 and Puerto Princesa are bankrolling the races, with FedEx, Mail and More, Caltex, BPI-MS and Lipovitan as supporters.

Puerto Princesa cyclists will also see action on both days on a special course set up by the race management group Philippine National Cycling Association. The winner will receive P5,000.

Nike unveils irons for average golfer

FINALLY, a set of game improvement irons for the average golfer from Nike Golf.

Known for producing the equipment that keeps Tiger Woods on top of the world, Nike recently unveiled the new Slingshot Irons which target the widest segment of golfers, the average player.

What is being billed as one of the easiest-hitting irons in the market is the creation of master craftsman Tom Stites in his decade-long commitment to challenge the conventional development of irons for the average golfers.

Stites, director of product creation for Nike Golf, went through a long process of designs, prototypes and testing to be able to shift the center of gravity of each club, thus getting the ball in the air with minimal effort and increased forgiveness.

Stites and Nike Golf have brought a new iron design category with the Slingshot, which is called Slingback, in addition to the blade, muscle back and cavity back designs.

"The Slingshot iron design will benefit the professional and the beginner and everyone in between," said Stites.

The Slingshot is now available at all Pacsports-managed retail shops and pro shops in graphite and steel shafts.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Vice Free 2. Skip Away 3. Mr. Speaker 4. With Feeling 5. Native Prince
Race 2—1. Sunny Sky 2. Icy Fingers 3. Legitimo
Race 3—1. Better King 2. Free Again 3. Cool Clay 4. Virgin Atlantic 5. All Class
Race 4—1. Marineta 2. Star Sapphire 3. Spoiler 4. Better Beth
Race 5—1. Noble Win 2. Long Road 3. Dynamite Jack 4. Kusang Loob 5. Quedan
Race 6—1. Successful Dream 2. Prince Nicholas 3. Divine Diva 4. Inner Wheeler
Race 7—1. Hellosilvergirl 2. Native Talent 3. Aspire 4. Free Way
Race 8—1. Red Star Rising 2. Doña Gelay 3. War Epic 4. Desert Deb 5. Better Strike
Race 9—1. Moore Magic 2. Victory Lap 3. Divine Right 4. Strong Man 5. Sierra Madre 6. Material Trick

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11•30•03 / 8 a.m. onwards

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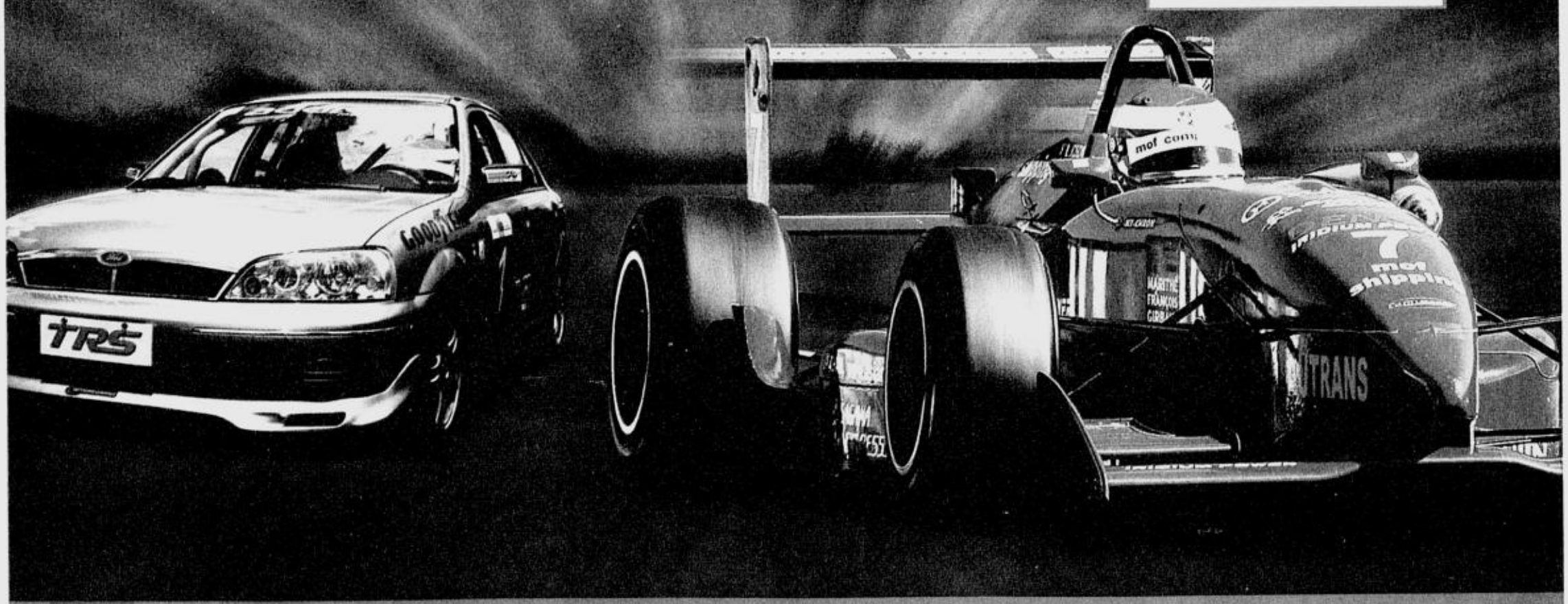

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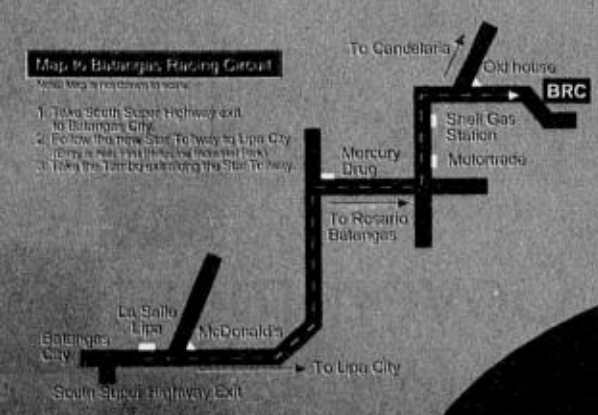

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

BD

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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

BSP poll shows businesses still optimistic

By Clarissa S. Batino

BULLISH sentiment surprisingly marked the latest quarterly survey of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas conducted from the first week of October to the first week of November although the respondents were worried about the unstable political situation, the volatile peso, increasing interest rates and rising inflation.

The quarterly BSP poll considered the failed impeachment against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. However, it has yet to reflect last week's resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Tuesday's declaration by actor Fernando Poe Jr. of his presidential bid.

The BSP said in a statement that businessmen remained optimistic in the current quarter as well as the first quarter of 2004 as indicated by positive diffusion indices of 24.9 percent and 20.1 percent.

A positive diffusion index means that more respondents had an improving rather than deteriorating sentiment.

"Respondents cited the expected increase in consumer demand during the Christmas season and the forthcoming national elections as the main factors contributing to their positive business outlook," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

The majority of the businesses surveyed indicated increased activity this quarter and into the first three months of 2004.

While most businesses believed that access to credit could become more difficult, 20 percent of the respondents indicated plans for expansion next year particularly for those operating outside the National Capital Region.

But the poll registered a negative index for employment, reflecting the likelihood that no new jobs would be created from now until the first quarter of next year.

"Confidence indicators of business performance such as volume of business activity and business conditions showed largely positive trends in the fourth quarter," Buenaventura said.

Improving economic fundamentals like the declining fiscal deficit leading to modest interest rates and favorable inflation rate also bolstered the confidence of investors surveyed, added the central bank.

The BSP survey covered 12 major industry groups drawn from the top 3,000 corporations in Metro Manila based on the list of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The latest survey represented a 53-percent response rate, down from 64 percent in the previous poll.

The central bank noted that 73 percent of the respondents pointed to stiff competition and 64 percent cited insufficient demand as the primary factors that limited production and business activity during the survey period.

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CURRENCIES

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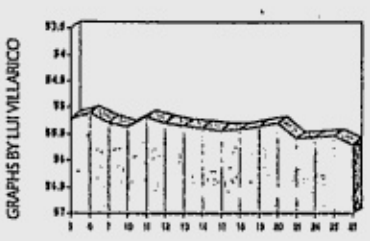
GRAPHS BY LUI VILLABICO



NOVEMBER

₱ 55.69 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 27, 2003

¥ 109.10 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 27, 2003

GOLD: $394.20-394.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 27, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks at 7-week low

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

STOCKS fell to their lowest in seven weeks yesterday on the prospect of a political novice becoming the country's next president.

The main index dropped 1.86 percent or 24.94 points to 1,319.42 points, the lowest since Oct. 9.

"News that actor Fernando Poe Jr. will run for presidency next year and reports suggesting that Moody's may downgrade the Philippines were seen as a dampener," said ForecastWeb analyst Danny Suwananpruti.

Poe, a movie icon, announced on Wednesday that he will run for president next year, making him a likely flagbearer for the opposition bid to unseat President Macapagal Arroyo.

"The business community fears his popularity could win him the election, but his ability to make the country prosper is extremely questionable," Suwananpruti said.

Moody's Investors Service said it may downgrade the nation's debt ratings and analysts warned rising political risk ahead of elections next year could worsen the country's fragile economy. ***Reuters***

(See stock market report on Page B6)

PLDT, at 75, still keeping Filipinos in touch

By Abigail L. Ho

FEATURE

(First of two parts)

GONE are the days of heavy black boxes that people back in 1928 called telephones. But the company that gave Filipinos a way to keep in touch with each other back then is still around, stronger than ever, 75 years later.

Dominant carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was incorporated and given the franchise to put up and operate a telephone network on Nov. 28, 1928, during a time when Filipinos hardly had any means to stay in touch via telephone.

Then American Governor General Henry Stimson might not have had a clue back then that the franchise he gave PLDT in 1928 would forever change the way Filipinos communicated with each other.

What used to be a network of intercoms—as Metro Manila residents could only call fellow Metro Manila residents and nobody else outside the region's boundaries—became a catalyst for economic activity as well as social development all over the country.

PLDT's first president was Theodore Vail Halsey, with American firm General Telephone and Electronics Corp. (GTE) as major shareholder.

The company acquired small telephone firms in the provinces to facilitate interconnection of various areas all over the country.

Being an archipelago, it was no easy task interconnecting the country's various islands with each other. One of the company's major interconnection milestones took place in 1929 with the establishment of the Manila-Baguio link. This link made national long distance calls possible, a first for the country.

Four years later, overseas radio-telephone service between the Philippines and the United States was likewise established.

While things seemed to be turning out exactly the way its owners had planned, PLDT was

PLDT/ B2

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

November inflation seen inching up to 3.3%

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S inflation rate likely inched up to 3.3 percent in November from a year ago from 3.1 percent in October due to pressures from oil price increases and the weakening of the peso against the US dollar, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

Neda director for research and policy planning Scholastica Cororaton told reporters yesterday that while food prices remained stable this month, there were increases in the cost of basic utilities.

"Food prices are expected to remain stable given the strong growth in agriculture. It's basically the non-food items, especially utilities," she explained.

Agriculture expanded by 5.5 percent in the third quarter due to the strong production growth of palay, fishery and forestry supported by favorable weather conditions.

The National Statistics Office is set to release the inflation rate for the month of November next Friday.

Analysts said consumer spending sprees ahead of the Christmas season could also exert pressure on inflation in December.

In the first 10 months of the year, the country's average inflation rate stood at 3 percent, still below the government's full-year target of 4.5-5.5 percent. This gave the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas leeway in its monetary management.

In October, the inflation rate, which measures the rate of increase in the prices of essential consumer goods and services, rose by 3.1 percent from 2.9 percent in September, owing to the depreciation of the local currency that made importation and utility prices more expensive.

On a month-on-month basis, the country's inflation rate stood at 0.1 percent in October, the same rate posted in September due to positive movements in the prices of clothing, services and miscellaneous items.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri earlier said inflation pressure would average around 3.1 percent in November and December.

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS ON PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE MAY 10, 2004 NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS

PRESENT:

ABALOS, Benjamin S., Chairman
TANCANGCO, Luzviminda G., Commissioner
JAVIER, Rufino S.B., Commissioner
LANTION, Ralph C., Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K., Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z., Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A., Jr., Commissioner

Promulgated: 25 November 2003

RESOLUTION NO. 6420

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines, the Omnibus Election Code (B.P. Blg. 881), Republic Act Nos. 6646, 7166, 8189, 8436, 9189 and other pertinent laws, the Commission RESOLVES to prescribe, as it hereby prescribes, the following periods of activities and prohibited acts for the May 10, 2004 national and local elections:

DATE/ PERIOD	ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS COVERED/INVOLVED
July 25, 2003 (Friday) to August 5, 2003 (Tuesday)	Registration of Voters in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)	
August 4, 2003 (Monday) to October 31, 2003 (Friday)	Registration of Voters in Iligan City /Cotabato City/Zamboanga City & NCR	
August 18, 2003 (Monday) to November 9, 2003 (Sunday)	Registration of Voters in Other Areas	
August 4, 2003 (Monday) to December 12, 2003 (Friday)	Validation of Voters in NCR, Iligan City/Cotabato City/Zamboanga City	
August 18, 2003 (Monday) to December 12, 2003 (Friday)	Validation Of Voters in Other Areas except ARMM	
August 1, 2003 (Saturday) to September 30, 2003 (Tuesday)	Registration for overseas absentee voters (Res. No. 6183 OAV 26 May 2003)	
September 30, 2003 (Tuesday)	Last day to file petition for Registration of Parties/Sectoral Groups	
Not earlier than November 7, 2003 (Friday)	Party convention to select and nominate official candidates for all positions.	
December 15, 2003 (Monday) to January 2, 2004 (Friday)	Filing of certificates of candidacy and nomination for national and local positions in all areas	
December 15, 2003 (Monday) to June 9, 2004 (Wednesday) (147 days before election and 30 days thereafter)	ELECTION PERIOD	Alteration of territory of a precinct or establishment of a new precinct (Sec. 5, RA 8189). Bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance, even if licensed to possess or carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Commission (Sec. 261 (p) (q) (s) OEC as amended by Sec. 32 R.A. No. 7166; Transfer of officers and employees in the Civil Service (Sec. 261 (h) OEC); Organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces (Sec. 261 (u) OEC). Use of security personnel or bodyguards by candidates, whether or not such bodyguards are regular members or officers of the PNP or AFP or other law enforcement agency (Sec. 261 (t), OEC, as amended by Sec. 33, RA 7166) Suspension of any elective provincial, city, municipal or barangay officials (Sec. 261 (x), OEC)
January 02, 2004 (Friday)	Last day to file manifestation to participate, in the Party List election.	
Not later than January 15, 2004 (Thursday)	Last day for substitution of candidates for all positions.	
January 31, 2004	Last day to constitute the Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group	
Up to midday of May 10, 2004 (Monday) Election Day	Last day for substitution of candidates for all positions by reason of death or total incapacity.	
March 1, 2004	Last day for appointment of members of the Special Board of Election Inspectors for overseas absentee voting.	
March 16, 2004 (Tuesday)	Last day for appointment of members of the Boards of Election Inspectors subject to changes on account of lack of public school teachers and disqualifications due to relationships to candidates (Sec. 164, OEC, in relation to Sec. 31, RA 8189)	
At any time up to January 10, 2004 (Saturday)	Filing of petitions for inclusion of qualified voters in the List with the proper Municipal or Metropolitan Trial Courts for those whose applications for registration have been disapproved or whose names have been stricken out from the list by the Election Registration Board.	
At any time up to January 15, 2004 (Thursday)	Filing of petitions for exclusion of non-qualified registrants.	
February 10, 2004 (Tuesday) (90 days before election day)	Posting of certified list of voters (Report 1B) (Sec 30, RA 8189)	
February 10, 2004 (Tuesday) to May 08, 2004 (Saturday) (90 days before election)	Campaign period for President, Vice President and Senators (Sec 5, RA 7166), and political parties, organizations or coalitions participating under the party list system (Sec. 4 RA 7941) both in the Philippines and abroad.	
February 10, 2004 (Tuesday) to May 10, 2004 (Monday)		Giving of donations or gift in cash or in kind, etc. (Sec. 104, OEC)
March10, 2004 (Wednesday) to March 12, 2004 (Friday)	Notice of inspection and verification of completeness of the VRRs for each precinct book of voters. (Sec. 31, RA 8189).	
March 11, 2004 (Thursday) to June 10, 2004 (Thursday) (60 days before election and thirty (30) days thereafter)		Illegal release of prisoners (Sec. 261 (n) OEC)
March 13, 2004 (Saturday) to April 10, 2004 (Wednesday)	Conduct of verification and inspection of completeness of book of voters, and sealing thereof. (Sec. 31, RA 8189)	
March 25, 2004 (Thursday) to May 8, 2004 (Saturday) (45 days before election)	Campaign period for members of the House of Representatives and elective provincial, city and municipal officials (Sec. 3;OEC; and Sec. 11, RA 8436)	
March 26, 2004 (Friday)	Last day to submit nominees in the Party List.	
March 26, 2004 (Friday)	Last day for heads of all reaction forces, strike forces or similar forces to submit to the Commission a complete list of all members thereof with such particulars as the Commission may require (Sec. 261 (u), OEC)	
March 26, 2004 (Friday) to May 09, 2004 (Sunday) (45 days before election)		Appointment or hiring of new employees. Sec. 261 (g) OEC; Creation and filing up of new positions. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); Absolute prohibition with out exemption on promotions or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privilege. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); Releases, disbursements or expenditures of public works and social services and development. (Sec. 261 (v) OEC); Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants or similar devices for a future undertaking chargeable against public funds. (Sec. 261 (w) OEC). Campaigning
April 8, 2004 (Maundy Thursday) to April 9, 2004 (Good Friday)		
April 10, 2004 (Saturday) (30 days before election)	Last day to furnish every registered voter with a Voter's Information Sheet which contains voters name, address, precinct, place where he is registered and simplified instructions as to casting of voters, an official sample ballot, and list of all registered national, provincial and city candidates to be voted in the election (Sec. 1, RA 7904)	
Not later than April 25, 2004 (Sunday)	Constitution of the Municipal/City/District Provincial and Special Board of Canvassers (See Resolution No. 6325)	
May 08, 2004 (Saturday)	Last day of campaigning for all positions	
May 9, 2004 (Sunday) EVE OF ELECTION DAY		Campaigning (Sec.3 OEC) Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor, etc. (Sec. 261 (dd). (1), OEC). Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC)
May 09, 2004 (Sunday) to May 10, 2004 (Monday)		Campaigning (Sec. 5, R.A. 7166)
May 10, 2004 (Monday)	ELECTION DAY	Campaigning (Sec.3 OEC) Soliciting votes or undertaking any propaganda for or against any candidate or any political party within the polling place or within a radius of thirty meters thereof. Sec. 261 (cc) (6). Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving or taking intoxicating liquor, etc. (Sec. 261 (dd). (1) OEC). Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks, and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC) Voting more than once or in substitution of another (Sec. 261 (z)(2)and (3) OEC). Holding of fairs, cockfights, horse races or similar sports. (Sec. 261 (dd) (3) OEC Opening of booths or stalls for the sale etc. of merchandise, refreshments within (30) meters radius from polling place (Sec. 261 (dd)(2)OEC)
	CASTING OF VOTES	
On any day starting 12 March 2004 (host-country time up to 3:00 o'clock PM of 10 May 2004 (Philippine Time). (Art. 34, Comelec Resolution No. 6117 dated 14 May 2003).	For overseas seafarers who are registered voters under RA 9189, (Overseas Absentee Voting Act).	
On any day starting from 11 April 2004 (host country time up to 3:00 o'clock PM of 10 May 2004 (Philippine Time (Art 34, Comelec Resolution No. 6117 dated 14 May 2003).	For overseas land based registered voters under RA 9189 and Resolution No. 6325	
May 10, 2004 (Monday) (7:00 AM to 3:00 PM)	For registered voters in the Philippines	
May 10, 2004 (Monday) (6:00 PM)	Convening of City / Municipal / District / Provincial and Special Boards of Canvassers	
May 11, 2004 (Tuesday) to June 10, 2004 (Thursday)	Filing of sworn statements of election contributions and expenditures (Sec. 14, RA 7166)	

If it shall no longer be reasonably possible to observe the periods and dates prescribed by law for certain pre-election acts, the Commission shall fix other periods and dates in order to ensure accomplishment of the activities so voters shall not be deprived of their right of suffrage. (Sec. 28, RA 8436)

Comelec Resolution No. 6388 promulgated 28 October 2003 and all other previous resolutions, or any part thereof, inconsistent with this resolution are hereby amended or superseded accordingly.

This Resolution shall take effect seven (7) days following its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

The Director, Education and Information Department, this Commission, shall cause the publication of this resolution in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines and shall furnish copies thereof to all Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors, Election Officers and all Departments, Bureaus, Offices and Agencies deputized by the Commission.

Let the Executive Director implement this resolution under the direction of the Chairman.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

LUZVIMINDA G. TANCANGCO
Commissioner

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

RALPH C. LANTION
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

PLDT

From page B1

in for some rough times. World War II in the 1940s proved to be a period of tribulation for the almost decade-old company as the US armed forces tore down PLDT's system to prevent the Japanese from using it.

At the end of the war years, only 10 percent of PLDT's lines and facilities were operational.

But this did not dampen the company official's spirits. In 1953, PLDT was able to install 33,712 telephone lines, even more than what it had in place during the pre-war period.

Filipinos take over

After four decades of American leadership, Ramon Cojuangco and a group of Filipino businessmen took over the helm by buying GTE's controlling stake in the company.

The year Martial Law was declared, only four years after the Cojuangco takeover, PLDT's total asset base breached the P1-billion mark.

Television transmission facilities were also put up during this time, making possible simulcasts between Manila, Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu.

A decade after, PLDT introduced direct distance dialing, which allowed subscribers to call long distance to nine major cities all over the Philippines and 22 countries throughout the world.

Cojuangco's death in 1984 left PLDT employees grieving as they saw him as the man responsible for transforming PLDT into a multibillion-peso force to reckon with in the business circle.

But his son Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, with the help of succeeding president Tomas Africa and the company's new board of directors, steered the company into a period of further expansion and big business.

Tonyboy took over the PLDT helm two years later.

(To be concluded)

Restoring faith in the Philippines

IF YOUR faith in the Philippines has been badly battered of late by toxic/comic politics, peace and order problems, mass stupidity, and inane media reporting/commentaries (ouch!), go and examine the third-quarter growth figures of the economy, available at www.nscb.gov.ph.

For those who have neither the time nor the resources to go websurfing, here are some of the striking, and confidence-building statistics:

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

• The overseas workers sent home P111 billion in that quarter, July to September 2003, pushing up the personal consumption expenditure index (money spent on food, transportation, text and phone calls, and miscellaneous "pa-pogi, pa-kikay" services) by 4.9 percent.

All these remittance money sloshing within the system in turn propelled spending in transportation and communication by 13.3 percent.

And the money left over from all those "gimiks" eventually spilled over to education

COCKTALES/ B4

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week November 25, 2003 / Last Week November 18, 2003
Bond Fund - Peso	1.11106 / 1.11521
Managed Fund - Peso	1.13965 / 1.13835
Bond Fund - US Dollar	0.9652 / 0.9754

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

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Honda Cars Quezon City, Inc. Tel. Nos. (02) 712 6850 to 61, 731 1532,732 8566,732 8166
Honda Cars Shaw Tel. Nos. (02) 717 1681 to 85
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Clark ecozone locators seek new power distributor

By Michelle V. Remo

INVESTORS and locators at the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) have threatened to stop paying monthly rentals to the ecozone management unless Clark Development Corp. replaces the area's "antiquated" power distribution system, which they claimed have caused severe damage to their businesses.

The locators said they plan to put the supposed rental payments in an escrow until inefficiency in the power distribution system in the ecozone has been addressed.

The Clark Investors and Locators Association (CILA) said it wanted a new power distributor to service the ecozone, and that it has requested for a seat in the board of CDC so that the association's members could have a say in the selection of a new distributor.

CILA vice chair Dennis Uy said CDC had been remiss in its obligation to provide good-quality service in terms of power distribution. He said the group was also blaming Clark Electric and Development Corp., CDC's joint-venture partner in the power distribution service, for the power woes experienced in the area.

"They cannot force on us another substandard power system. Our operations and businesses have already suffered over the years because of this," Uy said in a statement.

Uy was referring to the recent decision of CDC to award a contract to rehabilitate, repair and operate Clark's power facilities to Powerhouse Diesel Services Inc.

CILA said it doubted the capability of Powerhouse to solve the problem on poor power distribution, adding it would only refurbish—not replace—Clark's "old" and "inefficient" power-generation facilities.

CILA chair George Sorio, in a letter to CDC Chair Rizalino Navarro, said the most recent power outage on Sept. 24 had a huge impact on the locators, saying a number of them lost huge amounts of revenue and risked losing future clients.

Without giving figures of losses, Sorio said companies who claimed to have been severely affected by the recent power outage included CuberCity Teleservices, UPS International, L&T International, Philippine Shin-El, Smart Shirts Philippines, and SMK Electronics.

Sorio said CILA has also formed a technical group that would conduct an investigation on the cause of the recent power outage, and added that the results of the study would be used by the group to assist CDC in solving the power distribution problem.

Napocor raises budget for coal deals

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. said it has raised by another P214 million the budget for two coal supply contracts after suppliers backed out of from a bidding held last Tuesday.

In a notice to suppliers, Napocor said it raised the price ceiling of the two contracts to $15.6 million (P858 million) from $13.65 million (P750.75 million) each.

The two contracts provide for the supply and delivery of 325,000 metric tons of coal each for the 1,200-megawatt Sual coal-fired plant in Pangasinan and the 600-MW Masinloc plant in Zambales.

Napocor scheduled a pre-bid conference on Dec. 3 and an electronic bidding on Dec. 15.

This was the second time the auctions were rescheduled and the budget increased.

The auctions were originally set for Oct. 21 and Oct. 22, but Napocor postponed to give way to a team sent to China to appraise the shipping and production situations in the region.

In particular, the China mission investigated how the current shortage in supply and available cargo ships could affect Napocor's coal procurement program.

When the team came back, Napocor raised the budget for a contract to $13.65 million (about P751 million) from the original $10.9 million (about P600 million).

In an interview early this month, a Napocor official said the price ceiling for each contract was raised considering the rising costs due to the shortages.

However, industry sources said last Tuesday's bidding failed as suppliers still considered the budget cap of $13.65 million as too low.

The worldwide shortage in sea-faring haulers have hit Napocor such that one supplier had asked for an increase in freight payments for previously committed cargoes by about P175 million.

Cocktales

From page B3

and medical/health, pushing this sub-sector's growth by 5.4 percent.

• Even without the overseas remittances, the domestic economy easily overcame political and bureaucratic incompetence, kidnappings, bombings, and military mutiny.

Agriculture, fishery, and forestry sectors grew 5.5 percent in the same period, boosted by a 20.4-percent growth in palay production despite the drought in the first half of the year.

"This was the highest growth recorded for palay in the last 16 quarters," reported the National Statistical Coordination Board, belying claims by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara that the GMA government was neglecting the agricultural sector.

Coconut, pineapple, mango, cassava and camote posted modest growth while sugarcane whipsawed from double-digit growth in the first half of the year to a 19.3-percent contraction in the third quarter.

Typhoon Harurot devastated Regions 1 and 2 in July, damaging corn fields for the sector to continue a negative growth of 5.4 percent, from a negative 5.6 percent a year ago.

• Livestock and poultry production managed to outpace population growth by 3.3 and 2.6 percent, respectively. Fishery grew by 4.7 percent, with the aquaculture subsector (mainly tilapia, bangus and catfish farming) wriggling out a 1.2-percent growth.

• Forestry production posted a statistical fluke, 313.3-percent value growth, mainly due to the resumption of newsprint harvests from the Picop plantation in Caraga region.

• Manufacturing growth picked up to 4.4 percent from 2.7 percent a year ago, fueled by a 15.5-percent surge in the production of petroleum and coal, a 120.9-percent leap in basic metals, a 40.3-percent jump in machinery, and a 16.3-percent rise in miscellaneous manufactures.

Modest growths were also registered in chemicals, textiles, wood/cork products, furniture/fixtures, food, and electrical machinery.

On the negative side, tobacco manufactures (52.5-percent decline), metal industries (down by 17.8 percent from a growth of 8.5 percent), non-metallic mineral products, footwear, beverage, leather/leather products, and rubber products continued to show declines.

• Mining and quarrying continued with their, to quote NSCB, "hot streak of double-digit growth" of 17.8 percent, mainly due to the significant strides in crude oil/gas, gold, and chromium production. The sector saw the entry of two gold producers as well as the revival of three other mining companies, which offset cutbacks in the production of copper, nickel stone, and quarrying/clay/and sandpits.

• The belt-tightening measures of the government impacted heavily on the construction sector, declining overall by 10.7 percent in the third quarter from a 3-percent growth in the same period last year.

The contraction, however, was offset by the healthy growth in the real estate industry, which surged by 9.7 percent from a meager 0.3 percent rise a year ago.

"Ownership of dwellings and real estate started to pick up" with a 4-percent growth from last year's 2.1 percent, the NSCB said.

More important, the broad-based electricity, gas, and water consumption index likewise rose by an encouraging 3 percent.

• The persistent negative chatter from the banking/finance sector is belied by the sectoral growth of 6.5 percent.

Bolstered by fee-based activities, securities/treasury trading, and increased lending, banks led the by industry growth with 6.5 percent in the quarter compared to 3.9 percent a year ago. Similarly, non-banks jumped by 9.6 percent from 2.7 percent growth.

Even the highly competitive insurance industry posted a 4.9-percent growth.

• Real investments in durable equipment, mainly computers/office machines, leapt by 19.8 percent, the highest since 1993.

Still, expenditures on fixed capital formation altogether posted a more modest 1.3-percent growth.

Capital investments on breeding stocks, orchard, and reforestation went up by a more encouraging 4.2 percent.

• What is worrisome in the long run is that despite the weaker peso, the country's top exports such as semiconductors, consigned finished electrical machinery, and garments shrunk by 10.9 percent from an 11.3-percent growth last year.

Electrical machinery exports have by now contracted nine of the last 10 quarters, dropping like a stone by 42.8 percent in the last quarter from a 13.9-percent increase last year.

The weak manufactured exports are somehow offset by the remarkable rise in the miscellaneous services sector, mainly call centers, which posted a 55.5-percent growth.

Still, coming from a low base, the growth of the call center industry is barely enough to cover for the export shortfall, even when combined with the robust performances of crude coconut oil, petroleum naptha, banana/plantain exports.

Tourism, which accounts for 34.4 percent of the total-exports-of-services-sector, still failed to provide a quick fix, further dropping by 9.3 percent from a negative 3.9 percent last year, because of SARS and the country's Wild, Wild West image. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

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S&P, Fitch seen maintaining RP credit ratings

RATING agencies Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings are not likely to downgrade their stable outlook on the Philippines' debt to negative despite the current political uncertainties, according to outgoing Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Moody's Investors Service had warned the other day that it may downgrade the country's long-term foreign and local currency ratings due to heightened political risks that were taking its toll on the economy.

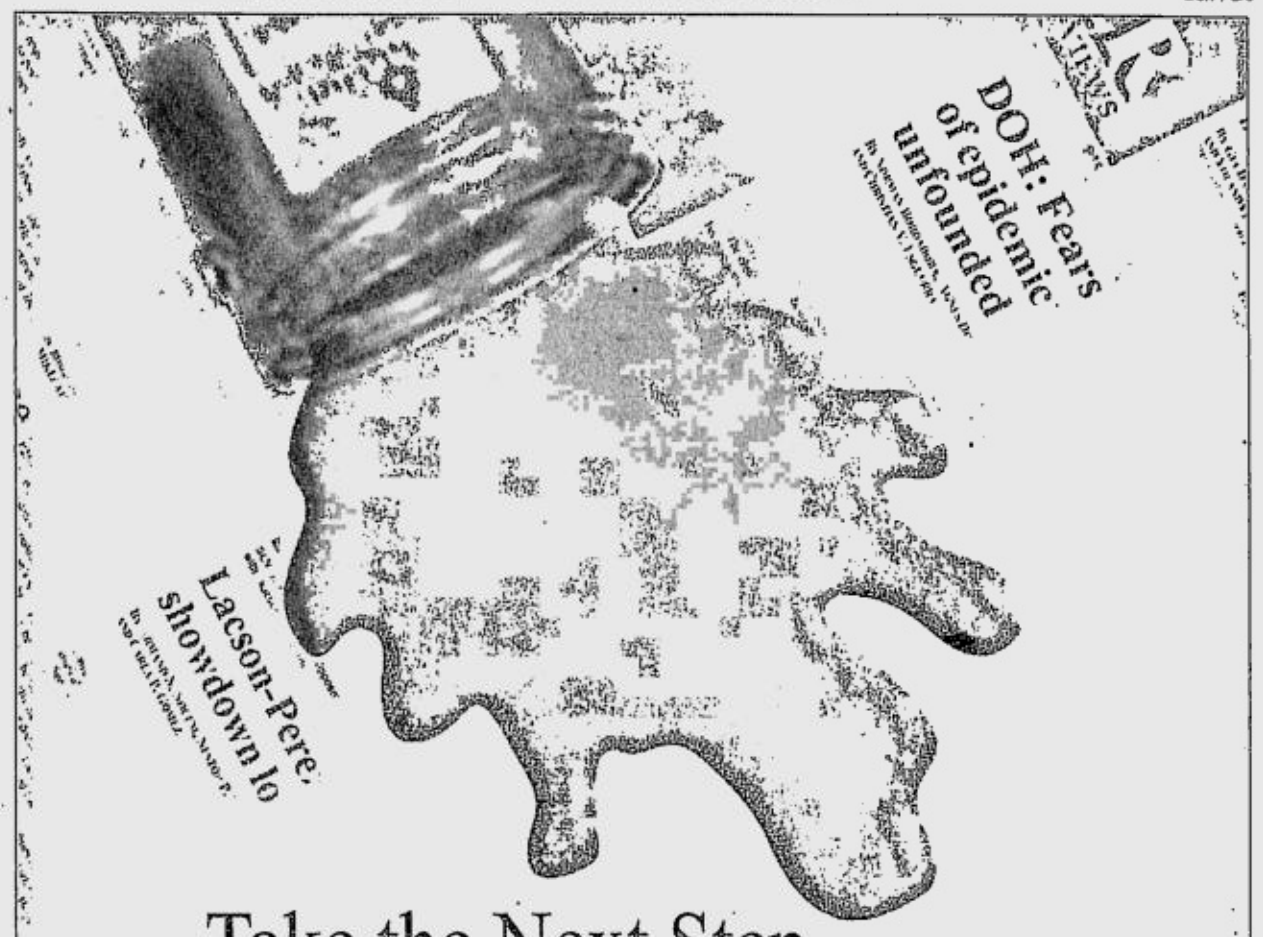
"I would not expect any downgrade from either S&P or Fitch because the points they had raised to justify their move earlier were the same ones being raised by Moody's," Camacho said.

He said S&P and Fitch had already flagged political uncertainties and its impact on the economy when they downgraded the country's ratings to BB from BB-plus during the first half of 2003.

The finance chief also brushed aside concerns on Moody's prospective downgrade of its Ba1 rating on Philippine debt.

"Moody's is only moving to a rating aligning itself with the two others. Let us not get alarmed because we are already there. And the issues Moody's is raising are

S&P/B6



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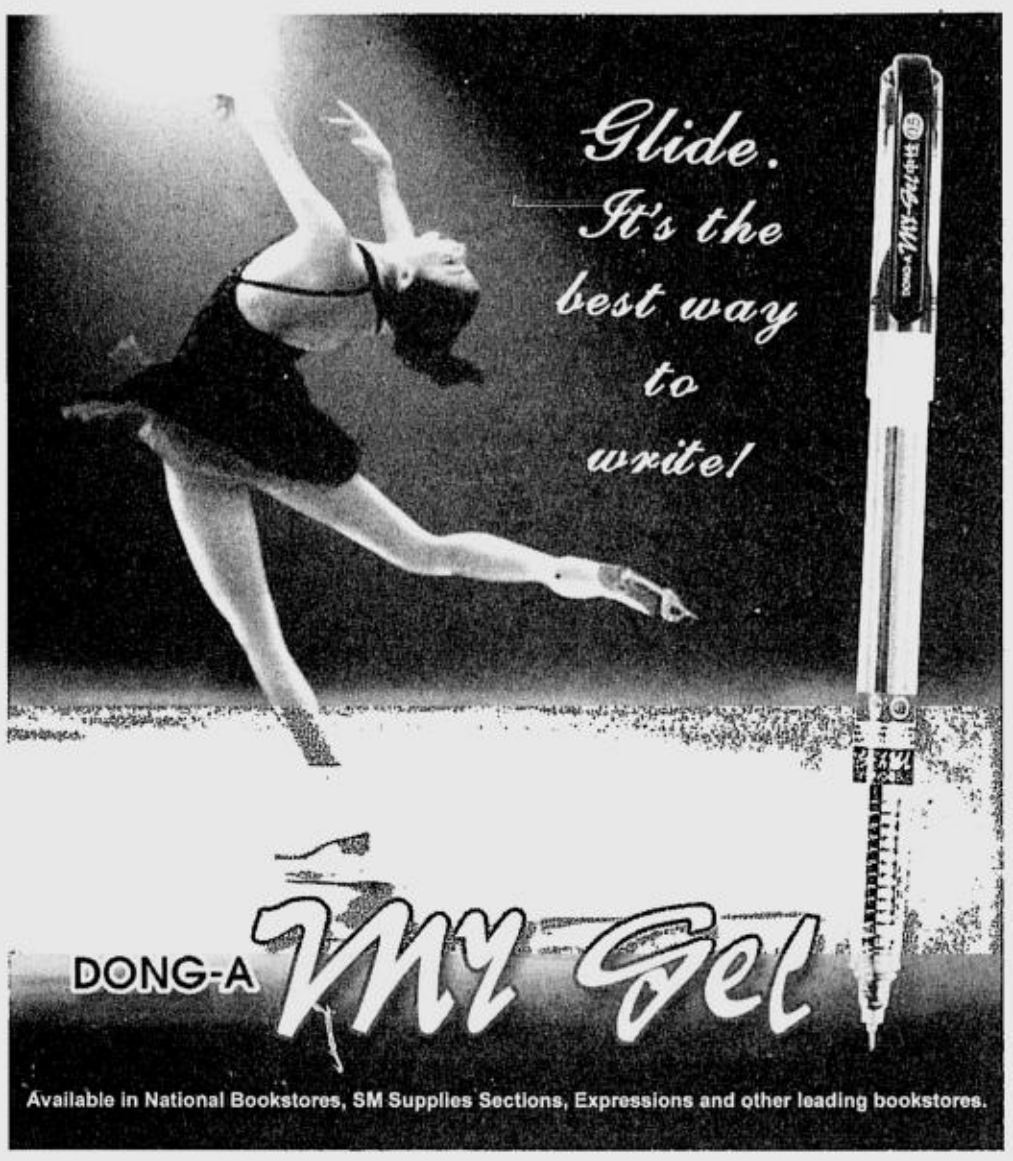

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vtech

Next Mobile allots P350M to put up 15 cell sites in 2004

By Abigail L. Ho

TRUNK radio operator Next Mobile Philippines Inc. has earmarked P350 million to roll out 15 new cell sites next year.

Next Mobile president and chief executive Mel Velarde said the company aimed to expand its coverage next year, particularly in the Visayas and areas in Luzon where it still did not have a presence.

Each cell site would cost $250,000. Three would be put up in Cebu, five in Davao, two in Bacolod, two in Cagayan de Oro and three in Baguio, he said.

He added that the rollout would take about 18 months to complete.

Next Mobile has a total of 114 cell sites in strategic points in Metro Manila, Subic in Zambales, Clark in Pampanga and the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon (Calabarzon) areas.

The company's expansion effort next year will boost available subscriber capacity to 200,000 subscribers upon completion.

Next Mobile aims to have 35,000 subscribers by year's end, 15,000 subscribers less than the earlier 50,000 subscribers in the middle of the year.

Velarde explained that the company underwent some database-cleaning the past months to get rid of bad accounts.

"What we did was basically clean up the database and just concentrate on profitable customers. Average revenue per user stands at P1,200 a month," he said.

The P350-million capital expenditure programmed for next year would be funded by the company's internally generated funds.

Velarde said there was no need to make any new borrowings in the near term as Next Mobile could always raise equity at the local bourse.

"By going public, we have the additional option to raise equity at the stock market, which is cheaper than borrowing from banks and other financial institutions," he said.

Next Mobile, through a P6.58-billion share-swap agreement with listed firm Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc., now controls 96.2 percent of the movie outfit.

The company remains in the red because of the massive depreciation costs of its existing equipment.

However, Velarde said Next Mobile would likely be in the black by mid-2005.

Driller readies tests on third well off Cebu

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FORUM Exploration Inc. is set to begin tests on the third well it drilled in Cebu after reaching its target depth last Wednesday, the Department of Energy said.

Ranilo Abando, director of the DOE's energy resource development bureau, said in a report that FEI was preparing the hole for wireline probes to determine the petrophysical characteristics of the area that was drilled.

Dubbed Forum-3X, the well reached a depth of 1,840 feet.

Canada-based Forum Energy Corp. had said its local petroleum exploration unit would conduct multi-well tests to appraise the extent of the natural gas reservoirs discovered last month in Cebu.

Forum-3X was drilled after FEI completed drilling Forum-2X where gas flowed up to 217,000 standard cubic feet a day.

Larry Youell, FEC president and chief executive, said in a statement the planned multi-well tests aimed to confirm whether several hydrocarbon accumulations encountered during previous drilling works were continuous within the field dubbed Maya.

"(The tests) would also provide us with better estimates of the hydrocarbon recoverable reserves, which we presently put at 0.6 to 3.86 million barrels of oil and 4 to 14 billion cubic feet of gas," Youell said.

The official added that success with Forum-3X, located in Northern Cebu, would hopefully pave the way for increased activities in the area aimed at putting the Maya gas discovery into production.

He said Forum-3X is about 300 meters away from the old CMB-2 well, which in 1972 flowed oil at the rate of 106 barrels a day, and gas at between 70,000 and 100,000 cubic feet a day.

He said FEI expected to penetrate the same reservoir—called Lower Miocene Malubog Formation—through Forum-3X.

MEDICard Opens SM Mall Clinic

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, one of the country's leading Health Maintenance Organization (HMO), recently opened its first ever mall-based clinic at SM City North EDSA. Guests of honor during its inaugural ceremony were Q.C. Councilor, Aiko Melendez (4th from L) & Special Asst. to Q.C. Mayor Sonny Belmonte, Lino Illera (center). Also present were the HMO's (L-R) EVP & GM, Luis Montoya, Pres., Dr. Nicanor Montoya & Med. Dir., Dr. Nicky Montoya. The SM City clinic, which offers multi-specialty consultation services, APE services and laboratory exams, kicks-off the series of MEDICard mall clinics to be established within the Metro—fulfilling its promise of providing members easy access to quality healthcare services.

ADVT

PLDT, Microsoft put up portal

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. has entered into a partnership with Microsoft Corp.'s MSN for a new portal that will cater to the Filipinos' unique needs.

The portal, dubbed MSN Philippines, would have content specially designed for Filipinos, including local sports and entertainment news as well as online shopping for local goods and services.

Under the partnership, PLDT information technology subsidiary ePLDT will host the site while MSN marketing partner Emergent Asia Inc. will market the new portal together with PLDT.

PLDT senior vice president for retail business Claro Ramirez said in a briefing yesterday that the new portal would help PLDT tap the more than 1.5 million unique users of MSN services in the country through the ads that the company would be placing on the site.

The company has a P1-million monthly advertising commitment to the new site. The site's opening page contains a PLDT banner ad as well as a feature on the company's 75th anniversary.

As with the MSN sites in other countries, users of MSN Philippines will also have access to various MSN services, including Instant Messenger and the Hotmail web-based free e-mail account.

Eventually, Ramirez said MSN Philippines would allow the convergence of services of companies under PLDT. *Abigail L. Ho*

S&P, Fitch ...

From page B5

all apparent already. These are the same factors I considered when I made my own decision to leave the government," he said.

Camacho would end his almost three-year stint in government this month. Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong had been named officer-in-charge of the department for the remainder of the term.

Moody's said it has placed on review the country's credit rating as political uncertainties "have begun to have adverse consequences for the government's financial position and on the overall economy."

Citing mounting political pressures on the economy, the rating firm had downgraded its outlook on the country's foreign debt rating to negative last September.

Issues that Moody's raised as considerations in cutting the country's rating did not even include the resignation of Camacho even while the finance chief's impending departure had weakened the peso and worried financial markets that the budget deficit would exceed the P202-billion target this year.

Government officials hoped that the New York-based rating firm could still be convinced to keep its rating of Ba1 on the back of improving economic numbers and continuing fiscal consolidation.

"Our economic fundamentals remain sound. Our third-quarter GDP and GNP numbers would prove this. We hope more positive developments in the next two months could forestall any downgrade," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

Growth in gross domestic product in the third quarter reached 4.4 percent against a target of 3.8-4.3 percent.

Corazon Guidote, executive director of the country's Investor Relations Office, said that any rating action from Moody's would come after its officials conclude a review scheduled from Dec. 10 to 16. *Clarissa S. Batino*

For details, please contact: Taiwan Association, Inc. at 687-1516 and 687-3374 or Expotrade/Meeting points International at 895-5735 / 895-2363

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 27, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	10,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17	17	17	17,000
Bank of The Phil. Islands	43	43	42.5	43	735,300
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	1,130
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	1,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35	35	35	35	142,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25.5	26	25.5	26	125,700
Philippine National Bank	24.25	24.25	24	24.25	9,200
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	400
Union Bank of the Phil.	27	27	26	26	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	190	190	190	190	150
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1700	1700	1700	980
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	10,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1330	1330	1330	1330	2,090
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	32,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.68	500,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	750	735	735	64,840
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.04	0.041	0.04	0.041	800,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.04	0.04	0.039	0.039	200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	14,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.84	610,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	770	770	750	760	121,540
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	9,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	13.75	191,200
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	21.5	21	21	883,200
Petron Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	7,977,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	308,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	1,008,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	300,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	60,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	20,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	72,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.5	17	16.5	17	335,400
RFM Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	120,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	630,000
San Miguel Corp. A	55	55	53.5	53.5	3,300
San Miguel Corp. B	60.5	60.5	60	60.5	18,400
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	11,881,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.05	3.05	3	3	647,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	3,010,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	550,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.038	0.038	0.035	0.036	5,100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18.25	18.25	17.75	18	870,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	70,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	20,000
Megaworld Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	1,794,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	1,140,000
Music Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	350,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Chemical Ind. Of The Phil	45	45	45	45	100,000
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	16,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	400,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	27	27	26.5	26.5	1,652,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT 10% Prel Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,300
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	0.0008	30,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.4	5.5	6,910,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	1,450,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,423,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	30,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	3,508,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.22	0.225	2,010,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	3,990,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	38,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	50,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	6,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,059,950	45,774,225.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	82,115,480	320,801,940.00
PRO	13,381,000	62,042,120.00
Mining	56,600,000	2,262,700.00
OIL	62,000,000	240,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	215,156,430	431,120,985.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	421.06	DOWN 1.95
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,969.00	DOWN 33.92
PRO	543.24	DOWN 20.67
Mining	1,642.98	UP 17.37
OIL	1.31	DOWN 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	833.24	DOWN 4.00
Composite	1,319.42	DOWN 24.94

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 33; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 86;NO. OF TRADES: 1,512

DISCLOSURES

ASIATRUST Bank disclosed its newly elected director Aurora Arnaez, representing Social Security System, has 7,501 shares of the bank as of October 27, 2003.

***

GERARDO Garcia, director of **Megaworld Corp.**, sold his 66,000 Megaworld common shares last November 24.

***

RAFAEL Simpao Jr. retired as president and chief executive officer of **Security Bank Corp.** He was elected chair of the executive committee effective January 2004. Alberto Villarosa was elected to replace Simpao.

***

RIZAL Commercial Banking Corp. bought 34,798 shares of RCBC Capital Corp. from Pan Malayan Management and Investment Corp. effectively increasing its ownership of RCBC Capital from 99.49-percent to 99.72-percent.

***

PHILIPPINE Savings Bank declared a cash dividend of P1 per share.

***

ELECTED directors of **Nextstage Inc.** were Orlando Vea, David Fernando, Rafael Morales, Cesar Buenaventura, Vicente Ruaro, Jose Benjamin Fernandez, John Butterworth, Leonel Santos and Edmundo Soriano. The company's capital stock was decreased from P500 million to P100 million by decreasing the par value of its shares from P1 to P0.20 per share.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

CURRENCIES

November 27, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.837170364	1	55.536
Japan	Yen	0.007682	0.009176	0.5096
United Kingdom	Pound	1.434157	1.7131	95.1387
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107794	0.12876	7.1508
Switzerland	Franc	0.648015	0.774054	42.9879
Canada	Dollar	0.642495	0.76746	42.6217
Singapore	Dollar	0.486049	0.580585	32.2434
Australia	Dollar	0.605942	0.723798	40.1968
Bahrain	Dinar'	2.232455	2.666667	148.096
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223227	0.266645	14.8084
Brunei	Dollar	0.484642	0.578905	32.1501
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000099	0.000118	0.0066
Thailand	Baht	0.020992	0.025075	1.3926
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	0.227944	0.272279	15.1213
European Union	MonetaryEuro	1	1.1945	66.3378
ArgentinaPeso	0.284269	0.339559	18.8577	
Brazil	REAL	0.284558	0.339905	18.877
Denmark	Kroner	0.134394	0.160534	8.9154
India	Rupee	0.018267	0.02182	1.2118
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220337	0.263193	14.6167
Mexico	New Peso	0.073734	0.088075	4.8913
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536785	0.64119	35.6091
Norway	Kroner	0.122455	0.146272	8.1234
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014661	0.017513	0.9726
South Africa	Rand	0.130553	0.155945	8.6606
Korea	Won	0.000697	0.000832	0.0462
Sweden	Kroner	0.110906	0.132477	7.3572
Syria	Pound	0.016255	0.019417	1.0783
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024565	0.029343	1.6296
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000525	0.000627	0.0348

Political worries dampen retail treasury bond auction

By Clarissa S. Batino

A CONFLUENCE of adverse developments capped by the announcement of Fernando Poe Jr.'s candidacy the other day raised the cost of the government's impending retail bond issue by half-a-percentage point to 10 percent from 9.5 percent when three-year retail treasury bonds were sold in July.

The Bureau of Treasury had planned to sell at least P5 billion worth of three-year RTBs during yesterday's auction but ended up selling only P1.56 billion due to the expensive bids although offers reached P5.76 billion.

Traders said the market sought a higher return for the funds they would lend to the government for three years.

"Nobody wanted to lend for three years at a rate that has not factored in the possibility that FPJ would win and become president," said a trader from a foreign bank.

Yesterday's auction had set the rate of the three-year RTBs at 10 percent preceding the public offering of the retail bonds until Dec. 2.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said he was still confident that the government could raise about P30 billion through the public offering of the RTBs.

In July, the government raised P74.3 billion from the sale of three- and five-year retail bonds when it had originally placed the volume at only P10 billion.

In June 2002, the government raised P63 billion from retail investors from the sale of similar bonds. Of the government's varied debt papers, only the RTBs are accessible to small investors.

"The auction was meant to set the price. We would take orders at that price during the public offering and so the P30 billion is still doable," he explained.

Deputy Treasurer Mina Figueroa blamed the "FPJ factor" for the disappointing results of the auction. "The market thinks FPJ has no experience and his programs have not been heard. The nervousness was reflected in the bids."

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NOV. 30, 2003
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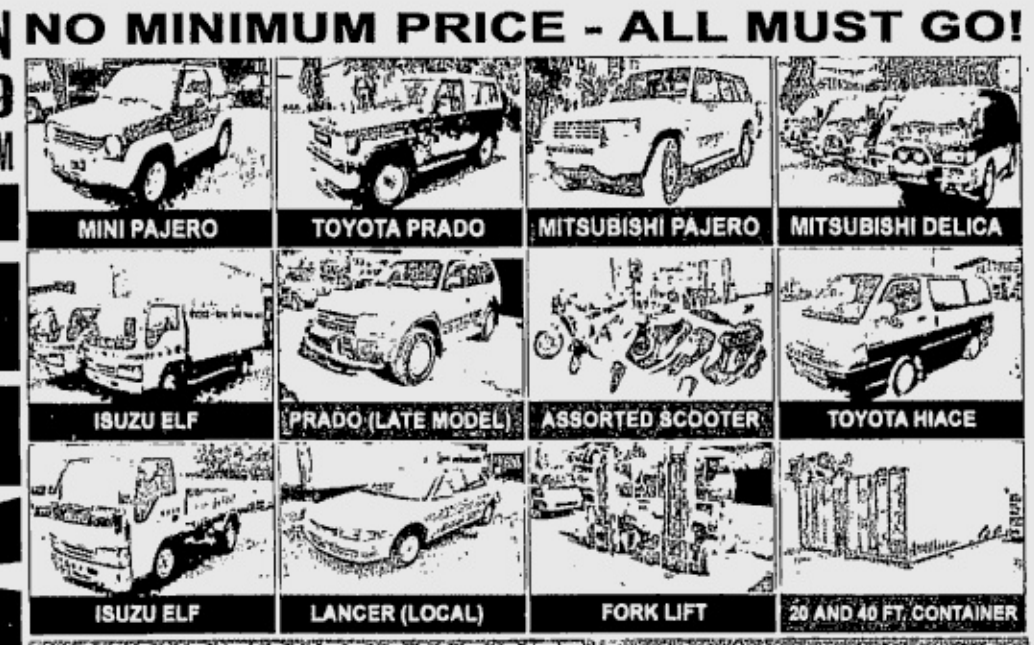

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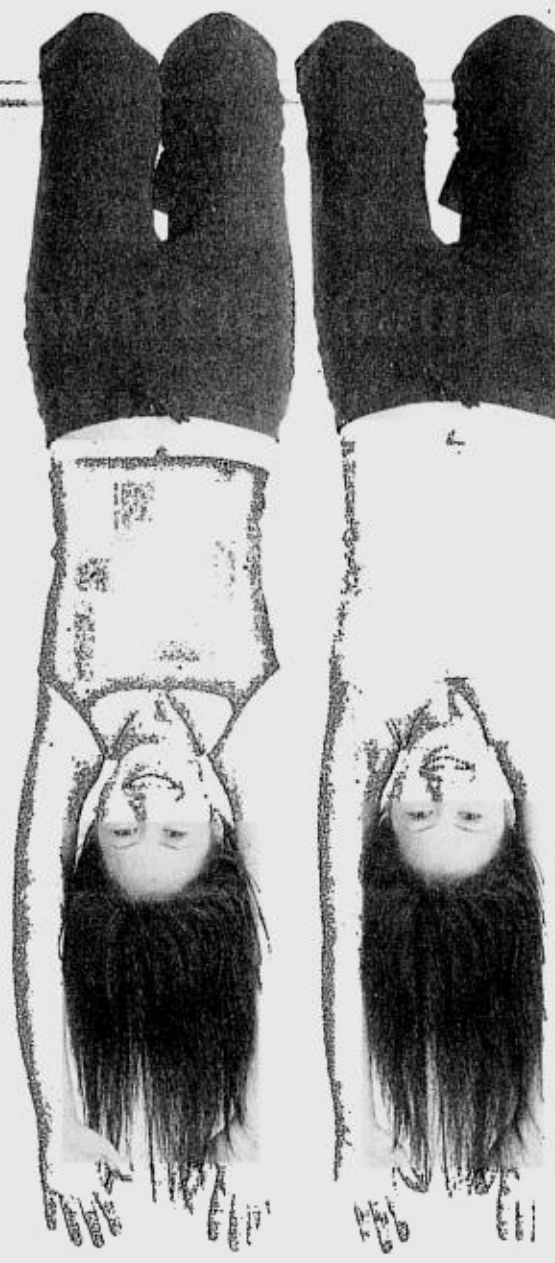

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PERSONAL DATA
LAST NAME
FIRST NAME M.I.
BIRTHDATE MM DD Y Y Y Y MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME First Middle Last
SEX ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE
CIVIL STATUS ☐ SINGLE ☐ SEPARATED ☐ MARRIED ☐ WIDOWED
NO. OF DEPENDENTS
CITIZENSHIP
HOME OWNERSHIP ☐ OWNED ☐ MORTGAGED ☐ RENTED ☐ WITH PARENTS/RELATIVES
EDUCATION ☐ HIGHSCHOOL ☐ COLLEGE ☐ SOME COLLEGE ☐ GRADUATE SCHOOL
TIN
Are you VAT registered? ☐ YES ☐ NO Do you need a VAT receipt? ☐ YES ☐ NO
HOME ADDRESS (number, street, district)
CITY/PROVINCE ZIP CODE YEARS OF STAY
HOME LANDLINE NO. MOBILE PHONE NO.
EMAIL ADDRESS
NAME OF RELATIVE NOT LIVING WITH YOU RELATIONSHIP
HOME ADDRESS (number, street, district)
CITY/PROVINCE ZIP CODE HOME LANDLINE NO.
Are you an existing Equitable cardholder? ☐ YES ☐ NO
Other Equitable Card/s: CARD NUMBER CREDIT LIMIT ISSUE DATE
1.
2.
3.

YOUR SPOUSE
LAST NAME FIRST NAME M.I.
BIRTHDATE MM DD Y Y Y Y ☐ EMPLOYED ☐ SELF-EMPLOYED OFFICE PHONE NO.

YOUR WORK AND FINANCES
☐ EMPLOYED ☐ SELF-EMPLOYED POSITION YEARS WITH FIRM
NAME OF OFFICE/BUSINESS
OFFICE ADDRESS (department, floor, building)
(number, street, district)
CITY/PROVINCE ZIP CODE OFFICE PHONE NO.

GROSS MONTHLY INCOME (in Pesos) SOURCE OF INCOME
APPLICANT'S
SPOUSE'S
OTHERS
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME
DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS
BANK BRANCH DEPOSIT BALANCE
OTHER CREDIT CARDS (IF ANY)
CARD NAME CARD NUMBER CREDIT LIMIT
CREDIT EXPERIENCE
HOME ☐ MORTGAGE ☐ RENTAL CREDITOR MONTHLY PAYMENT
AUTO

EXTENSION CARD (must be at least 13 years old)
LAST NAME FIRST NAME M.I.
BIRTHDATE MM DD Y Y Y Y RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME

DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS
DELIVER MY CARD TO: ☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE
☐ PICK UP AT EPCIB BRANCH/DEPT.
☐ PICK UP AT EQUITABLE CARDNETWORK, INC.
DELIVER MY STATEMENT TO: ☐ HOME ☐ OFFICE

MODE OF PAYMENT
☐ PAY TO BANK
☐ AUTO DEBIT MY EPCIB ACCT. NO.: ☐ FULL ☐ MINIMUM

NO PROCESSING FEE REQUIRED. Please do not enclose payment.

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I/WE HOLD OURSELVES, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY LIABLE FOR ALL OBLIGATIONS AND LIABILITIES INCURRED WITH THE USE OF THE EQUITABLE CARD AND EXTENSION CARDS AND, IN THE EVENT MY/OUR APPLICATION FOR AN EQUITABLE CARD IS DISAPPROVED, EQUITABLE CARDNETWORK, INC. IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO PROVIDE ME/US WITH THE REASON FOR SUCH A DECISION.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

SIGNATURE OF EXTENSION CARD APPLICANT

EQUITABLE CARDNETWORK, INC.
4th Floor, Equitable Card Center, 203 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City 1229 Philippines

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2003

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

New diabetes drug launched

EVERY year, a day is set aside to commemorate the World Diabetes Day (WDD) and this year, it was scheduled on Nov. 14. WDD is a major global awareness campaign for diabetes organized by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

This year's theme revolves around the effect of diabetes on the kidney. Majority of patients with diabetes are at high risk of developing severe kidney disease, which may end up in kidney failure, requiring long-term dialysis or kidney transplantation. Diabetes is the single most common cause of end-stage renal disease (ESRD), accounting for 35-40 percent of new cases each year.

An early sign of kidney damage is when the kidneys leak small amounts of a protein called albumin into the urine. This can be detected by a simple urine test. With more damage, the kidneys leak more and more protein, a problem medically known as proteinuria. This has been established as an ominous prognosticator in diabetic patients.

It is estimated that diabetes affects more than 135 million people worldwide, and WHO expects the number to increase to 300 million by 2025. Diabetes continues to be a growing global health concern. New modalities in the treatment and care of diabetes are constantly being developed, such as early and aggressive treatment of type 2 diabetes.

In line with this year's celebration of WDD, GlaxoSmithKline, one of the leading research-based pharmaceutical companies in the Philippines, launched a new drug for the management of diabetes. The new drug, which is a combination of metformin and rosiglitazone (Avandamet), targets insulin resistance and beta cell dysfunction, the underlying causes of type 2 diabetes.

The new drug is seen to provide durable glucose control for patients with type 2 diabetes. According to the landmark United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS), approximately half of patients on monotherapy with metformin or sulfonylurea will require multiple drugs to control the disease within three years.

However, patients with type 2 diabetes should continue to see their doctors for medical recommendation. Their physicians can give them advice on the best way to treat their diabetes as well as new treatment regimen that may be appropriate for them.

GOLD MEDAL FOR IHRS IN WOFEX 2003

IHRS students won the gold medal in cold kitchen competition in the just-concluded World Food Expo 2003 held August 2003 at the World Trade Center. IHRS is the country's first and only European standard-European faculty, culinary and hospitality school. The duo of Alma Tubig (3rd from left) and Jason de Vivar (not shown), both enrolled in the IHRS four-month program Fundamentals of Culinary Arts, bested five other competing teams. Congratulating the students are IHRS executives (from left) chef Ulrich Willimann, directory of culinary arts, Joy P. Schallenberg, president, and Hans Schallenberg, director of hotel management. For more information on tuition at the IHRS and other details, call Ralph Pinza or Jon Uriarte at 632-9848 or 634-6548.

Merck a 'Blue Ribbon Company'

GLOBAL research-based pharmaceuticals company Merck & Co Inc, which operates outside of the United States as Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD), recently made Fortune magazine's list of "Blue Ribbon Companies", a recognition bestowed to companies that have made five or more of Fortune's lists throughout the year.

This year, Merck was named for the following Fortune lists: Fortune 500, 100 Best Companies to Work For, Global 500, World's Most Admired Companies, and MBA's Top 50 Employers.

In the Philippines, MSD has been helping improve the health and well-being of Filipinos by providing Filipino patients with breakthrough medicines, disease information, innovative services and health management programs.

MSD also offers service programs for the medical community and patients to increase the level of awareness on advances in healthcare. These programs include medical training programs and scientific fora, resource centers and patient care programs. Its nationwide network of MSD Resource Centers (MRCs), for example, respond to the need for continuing medical education by offering modern facilities with the latest medical database, Internet access, and audiovisual tools.

Worldwide, Merck is also known for its corporate contributions program, which provide funding directly to qualified organizations and selected programs that serve the needs of society, in line with the Company's business and philanthropic goals to advance scientific knowledge and education and improve the health and well-being of people worldwide.

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Offer Period:
>Nov. 28 - Dec. 03, 2003

Issue Date:
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Minimum Investment Per Tenor:
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For more information please call :

ISSUER:	JOINT-ISSUE MANAGERS:	SELLING AGENTS:
Republic of the Philippines	Land Bank of the Philippines 405-7266 to 70; 405-7326; 405-7101 405-7228; 522-0000 loc. 2543, 2369, 2558	Landbank of the Philippines
Bureau of the Treasury 526-9979/523-3230 loc. 125,102	Development Bank of the Philippines 867-2945; 812-5799; 830-0990; 818-9511 loc. 2812, 2824, 2831, 2821	BPI Capital Equitable PCI Bank First Metro Investment Corp. Metrobank Veterans Bank

Q&A:

1. What are Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs)?

The Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) are part of the government's savings mobilization program designed to make government securities available to retail investors. It is issued by the Republic of the Philippines through the Bureau of the Treasury. This issue of the RTBs will have a maturity of 3 years and an investor may purchase any tenor or a combination thereof. Interest or coupon payments will be paid quarterly compared to the regular Treasury Bonds which are paid semi-annually.

2. Why invest in RTBs?

The RTBs are designed to provide a safe, high-yielding and affordable savings instrument.

RTBs are safe. They are considered practically risk-free because they are direct, unconditional and general obligations of the Republic of the Philippines.

RTBs are high-yielding. Interest rates are superior to typical time deposit rates.

RTBs are affordable. The minimum denomination is only P5,000 and in multiples of P5,000 thereafter.

3. Who can purchase the RTBs?

The *RTBs* aim to cater to retail investors such as individuals, and corporations who are looking for a safe, affordable and high-yielding investment for their savings. In addition, the *RTBs* will also be available for purchase by financial and other institutional investors.

4. Where and when can an investor purchase RTBs?

The *RTBs* will be sold to the public during the Public Offering (PO) which will be announced in major dailies.

The Public Offering is the opportunity given to retail investors to subscribe to the RTBs through LANDBANK and DBP and the accredited Underwriters and Selling Agents.

The terms and conditions applicable to the RTBs as well as copies of the complete documentation will be made available during the Public Offering by each Underwriter and Selling Agent.

5. How does an investor participate in the PO?

Investors may purchase the bonds over the counter from the Underwriter or Selling Agent nearest them, subject to the minimum deposit requirements of each Underwriter and Selling Agent.

They will be required to open a peso deposit account or designate an existing peso account where interest payment and principal redemption of the *RTBs* will be credited.

For corporations, copies of the Board Resolutions authorizing the purchase of RTBs and indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures shall be required.

6. What is an investor's proof of ownership?

The Underwriters and Selling Agents will sell the RTBs to individuals and other investors on a non-recourse basis through confirmations of outright sale (the "Confirmations of Sale") issued by the Underwriter or Selling Agent. Investors may pick up these Confirmations of Sale a few days after the close of the public offering from the offices of the Underwriter or Selling Agent. In the meantime, an Acknowledgement Receipt will be issued to investors at the time of payment.

No certificate will be issued to bondholders as ownership by individuals and other investors will be registered in electronic form under the BTr's Registry of Scripless Securities.

7. Can an investor still purchase RTBs after the public offering?

After the PO, an investor can buy *RTBs* from the secondary market at prevailing market prices.

8. What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?

The RTBs are considered having the least credit-risk because they represent the direct and unconditional obligation of the government thereby enjoying the highest certainty of payment. The yield is assured if the investor holds on to the bond until maturity. However, if an investor opts to sell the RTBs in the secondary market prior to its maturity, then it will be subject to interest rate risk depending on the prevailing market rate at the time the RTBs are resold in the secondary market.

9. Where can an investor trade his RTBs?

Investors can sell their *RTBs* to the Underwriter/ Selling Agent from which the RTBs were originally purchased subject to prevailing market rates.

ProductFILES

The better alternative source of fiber

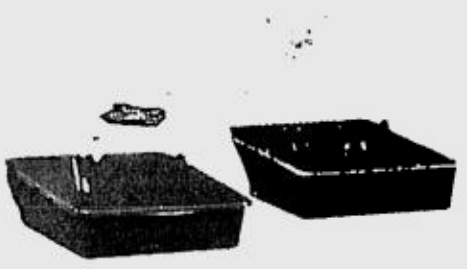
STUDIES show that fiber has many beneficial effects to the body. That is why doctors and health professionals advice us to take at least 11 servings of fruits and vegetables everyday. But how many of us are actually able to consume that many?

Now, there's an easy way to increase you daily fiber intake-the doctor-recommended Bio-Fiber, an excellent source of fiber especially if you don't eat enough fruits and vegetables.

Bio-Fiber is a dietary fiber supplement that promotes regular bowel movement, helps reduce cholesterol and reduces fat around the waistline.

Bio-Fiber is made from natural fiber made from vegetable sources, and is easy to use. Take one to two sachets of Bio-Fiber with every meal, or just mix it with your favorite drink. It dissolves quickly and does not affect the taste. Bio-Fiber is available at P10 per sachet at all Mercury Drug stores, Watson's and GNC. Bio-Fiber is distributed in the Philippines by Omega Health Products, the sole distributor of prestigious all-natural health products from Asia and Europe.

Keep the kitchen clean for healthy living



FOR ROACHES and other pests, the kitchen is paradise. It's where we prepare and store food as well as keep cooking utensils. At night, pests feast on crumbs, crawling from plate to plate.

Don't wait for the critters to make your kitchen their haven. Here are some tips to keep them at bay: Cover leftover food or place them inside the refrigerator; wipe the dining table after eating, and wash the place mats; clean the cooking stove and kitchen counters after every use; scrub your kitchen sink after washing the dishes; mop the kitchen floor; and dispose kitchen garbage properly.

Finally, store plates, glasses, and silverware in Orocan's Dish Gard. Its dome-shaped top tightly seals the compartments and makes sure that no insect can penetrate it. The Dish Gard has separate compartments for dishes, glasses, and silverware for a cleaner and more organized look.

And since it is Orocan, you are guaranteed of the finest quality plastic and a colorful modish look to create that vibrant ambiance in your kitchen.

BITS Clips

Zildjian Day in Manila

DRUMMERS from different parts of the Metro shall again be treated to a special opportunity to witness another world-class talent from the United States. This year, in partnership with JB Music, the alumnus of Berklee College of Music shall visit Manila on Nov. 29, Saturday, to conduct a Zildjian Clinic at 3 p.m. at Stageworx, 5th level of the Edsa Shangri-la Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City. Formerly a member of the band Journey, the 5-time number one all-around drummer of Modern Drummer Magazine (Hall of Fame) and the master of jazz fusion, Steve Smith on his Asian tour shares his knowledge and colorful experiences with local talents using the best cymbals there is-Zildjian. Entrance tickets are now available at all JB Music branches (911-2161). The 2003 Zildjian Clinic is made possible with the support of JB Sports, Fersal Inn, Inn Café and Sonor.

NREA elects new officers

THE NATIONAL Real Estate Association (NREA), the country's one-stop trade organization of real estate professionals and practitioners, holds its annual general assembly and elections on Nov. 28, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Sampaguita Room of Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan. Up for election are the members of the NREA board of trustees, who in turn will elect from among themselves the executive officers to run the affairs of the association in 2004. During the meeting, new members will also be inducted. For particulars, call the NREA secretariat at 912-3492 or 913-4463.

WAPR receives award

THE WORLD Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation-Philippines (WAPR-Philippines) is an organization that is concerned with the social reintegration and care of persons who have suffered from mental disorders. The organization was awarded the Presidential Achievement Award for its initiatives in psychosocial rehabilitation programs in the recently concluded 8th World Congress on Psychosocial Rehabilitation held at the New York University. Interested individuals and groups are again invited to attend the 4th National Conference on Psychosocial Rehabilitation to be held on Nov. 28 and 29 at the Hyatt Regency Manila. Call 813-6468 or 0917-4010090 for details.

P6 float from BK

ICE CREAM and Coke, all for P6? Positive. The P6 Ice Cream Float from Burger King is a truly great value that is a superb addition to any value meal of Burger King. Burger King, the home of the Whopper, is bent on giving its customers great fun and super value as it introduces the P6 Ice Cream Float. The P6 Ice Cream Float mixes the creaminess of ice cream and the fizzy delight of Coke or any drink of choice. In this light, the local franchisee of Burger King, the Philking Restaurants Development Corp and Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc recently signed a strategic alliance making Coca-Cola the official softdrink supplier for 8 more years in all Burger King restaurants in the Philippines. The contract was signed by Raul Nazareno, president of Philking Restaurants Development Corp and Eric Dy Quiangco, national sales director of CCBPI.

Tiffany lamps on sale

A SPECIAL export overrun sale on world-class mosaic furniture and accessories will be happening on Nov. 29 and 30 at 1 Sampaloc Street, Mon-El Subdivision in Paranaque City. One of the featured product offerings during the special sale will be Tiffany lamps and lighting fixtures. These Tiffany lamps are handcrafted by highly trained Filipino artisans. Each piece of multicolored glass is hand-cut and placed for assembly in accordance with the original method developed by Luis Comfort Tiffany of the famous Tiffany Glass Studios in the United States. Other products available on sale are glass mosaic furniture that can add color and texture to any area of the house. For more information, call 826-4522. All showroom items are on sale at special prices only during the 2-day sale, and while stocks last.

Communicate or perish, again

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

CAPTAIN Panfilo Villaruel is dead. He perished after he tried to communicate by forcibly taking over an airport tower.

In the necrological services for Villaruel, former Transport and Communications Secretary Josefina Lichauco described him as a principled and gentle person who loved his country. She surmised that he must have been so frustrated with the failed communication with the government that he took this action so uncharacteristic of him.

Background

Last June 13, 2003, leaders of the Alyansa Agrikultura, a broad coalition of more than one million small farmers and fisherfolk, asked me to write about the need for open communication with the government.

The example they cited was when a group of farmers had to stage four rallies for three months and a hunger strike before they could talk to a top Department of Agriculture official. And this happened only on the sixth day of the hunger strike.

Robert Versola, one of the leaders of the hunger who underwent one of the most difficult tortures during the martial law years, said he rejected several overtures to use violence to achieve their objective.

In the countryside there is an increasing number of people considering violence to achieve change, unlike the Alyansa Agrikultura and Robert Versola who favor peaceful means.

To prevent this from happening, the Alyansa supported the call President Macapagal-Arroyo made last Dec. 30, 2002: "Reform or Perish."

Realizing the importance of communication in achieving reform, Alyansa leaders formulated another slogan: "Communicate or Perish."

Communication in agriculture

How is the communication between government and the small farmers and fisherfolk?

Meneleo Carlos, a respected businessman, once said, "We in business have the money, resources and connections to make our voices heard by government. The small farmers and fisherfolk do not. They need help much more than we do."

During the past year, this assessment has proven true.

For example, to minimize textile smuggling, businessmen have succeeded in getting the Department of Trade and Industry to provide the volume of a firm's imported textile necessary for a specific export garment volume.

This is then compared with the actual export garment volume produced. Any difference not accounted for is considered smuggled or "leaked" into the domestic market. This was monitored by the businessmen and violators were accordingly penalized.

Hograisers

The farmers and fisherfolk have not experienced this kind of open communication.

For example, when hograisers found carabeef with the dreaded Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) being illegally sold in the wet markets, they asked the DA for information on the carabeef volume needed for each firm's processing requirements.

They would then compare this with the actual processed meat produced. Any difference is considered carabeef illegally "leaked" into the wet market where there are no FMD controls. Despite this long standing request, this information has not been given.

The fisherfolk have a similar request. Imported fish is generally allowed for use only in fish canneries, processing plants, hotels and restaurants. The fishery leaders asked for information on the fish imports so that they could take action on the imported fish illegally "leaked" into the wet markets.

Despite three requests they have given this year, they have also not gotten this information.

Also cited is the refusal of the DA to give the fisherfolk copies of our fishery access agreements with Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, as well as the one currently being formulated with Japan.

Arsenio Tanchuling, the Executive Director of the Tambuyog Development Foundation and a convenor of the National Coalition Kilos Mangingisda, says that fisherfolk of other countries are deeply involved in helping formulate these access agreements.

He asserts that our government, despite pronouncements of transparency and good governance, does not practice what it preaches. Nevertheless, he rejects any proposals of violence that result from what he sees as the fishers' increasing frustration.

Senate Bill 1004

The desire by the small farmers and fisherfolk for more transparent communication extends to elected officials. For example, the hog raisers are worried that their proposed legislation passed unanimously by the House of Representatives will not even reach the Senate floor.

Senate Bill 1004 prohibits the importation of meat products from countries officially declared as having Foot and Mouth disease. They say that a plan backed by bribe money is to prevent transparency by not submitting the Senate Committee report to the full Senate this December.

Next year, the senators will be too busy with elections to even consider this bill. After elections, the newly elected Senate and House of Representati ill have to start from scratch. Meanwhile, the country's farmers will continue to suffer.

Conclusion

The highest official of the land has said, "Reform or perish." The lowly but extremely important small farmers and fisherfolk have added, "Communicate or perish."

We do not want more Panfilo Villaruels to perish because of lack of communication. We must address this problem immediately, especially in the agricultural sector, where talk of violence is increasingly being heard. We must communicate, lest we, as a nation, perish.

(The author is chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative, former Undersecretary of DA and DTI, and former Chair and Cabinet Secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects. For inquiries or suggestions, e-mail agriwatch-phil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

Philippine mango exports up 25%

By Christine A. Gaylican

PHILIPPINE fresh mango exports grew by 25 percent during the first 10 months of the year, translating to some $90 million in export earnings, according to the Philippine Mango Exporters Foundation.

Roberto C. Amores, president of leading mango exporter Hi-Las Marketing Corp., said the Philippines shipped some 47,495 metric tons of mangoes as of October this year, up from 37,996 metric tons exported in the same period last year.

He said the growth in the country's mango exports could be attributed to higher farm yields as well as the opening up of new export markets.

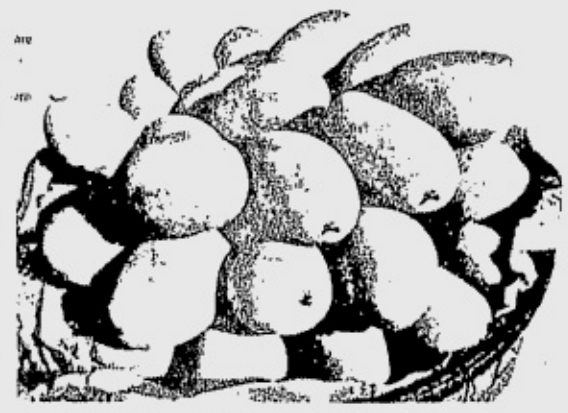
The Philippines exports fresh mangoes to Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Belgium.

Australia and the United States were added to the list about two years ago.

Aside from Hi-Las, other mango exporters include Marsman Drysdale, Dole Asia Ltd. and Diamond Star Agro Products Inc.

Philippine exports to Japan reached 6,500 metric tons as of the end of June this year. Exports to Hong Kong and China, on the other hand, reached 40,700 metric tons while deliveries to New Zealand reached 25 tons.

Philippine exporters will soon ship a thousand metric tons of fresh mangoes to the Middle East markets such as Dubai, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.



RP eyes more export markets next year.

Amores said the Philippines was still up to the challenge of overtaking Mexico, which currently dominates the $200-million fresh mango market of the US.

The Philippines has become the world's eight largest exporter of fresh mangoes after successfully cracking the export markets of Japan and Hong Kong worth $11 million and $25 million, respectively.

Philippine mangoes are sold in the US under the brand name Philippine super mangoes since Mexico has been using the brand Manila mangoes.

Mexico got its mango seedlings from the Philippines during the Manila-Acapulco trade that flourished in the 17th century.

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Nissan Frontier III 4x2 M/T	825,000.00	165,000.00	116,000.00	8,697.00	20%	25%	50%
Nissan Frontier III 4x2 M/T Titanium	925,000.00	185,000.00	138,000.00	9,885.00	20%	35%	
Nissan Frontier III 4x4 M/T	1,100,000.00	220,000.00	173,000.00	12,036.00	20%	45%	
Nissan Urvan Escapade	670,000.00	174,000.00	121,000.00	9,091.00	20%	20%	50%
Nissan Patrol 4x2 A/T Del	2,220,000.00	444,000.00	365,000.00	24,999.00	50%		

Promo period is from November 17 to December 16, 2003.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3609 Series of 2003

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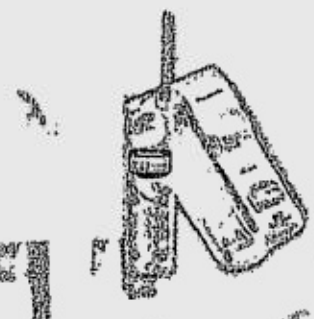

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KX-TC1230
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KX-TC1220
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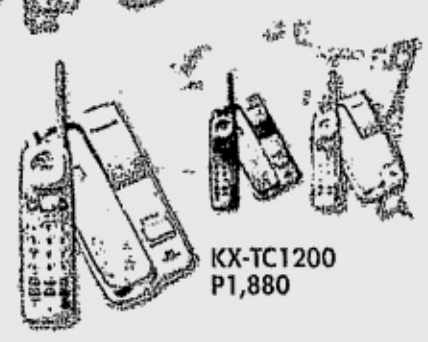

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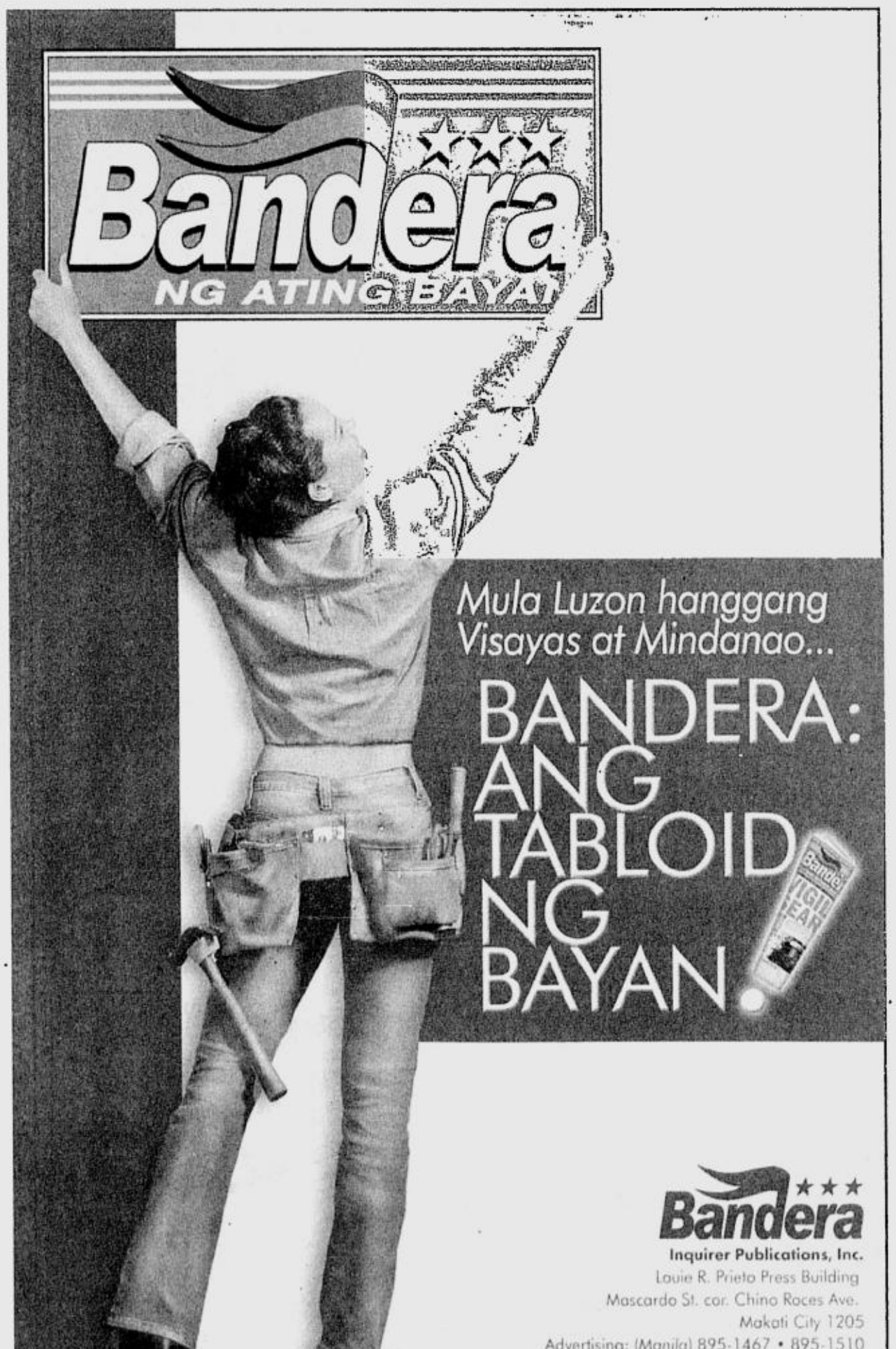


Aboitiz banks on out-of-school youth

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

NATIONAL hero Dr. Jose Rizal has said that the youth is the hope of the fatherland.

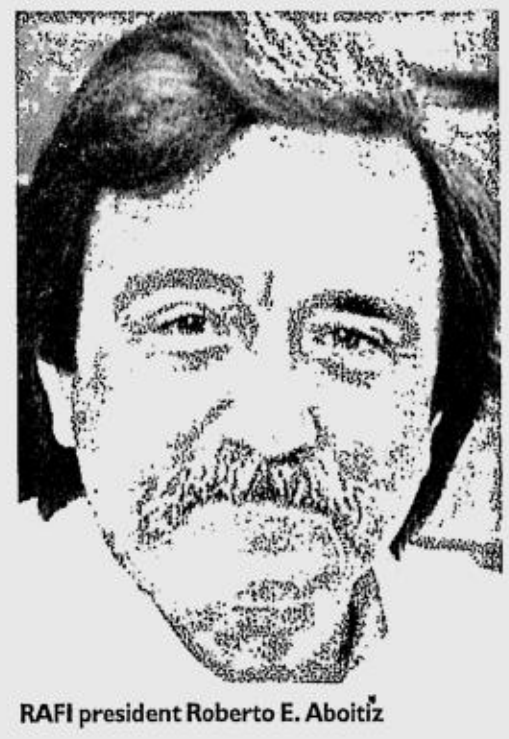
But hope is an alien emotion to many of today's youth in depressed communities who are weighed down by problems such as depression and are victims of violence in their own homes.

It is these youth that the 37-year-old Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc., the private foundation of the Aboitiz group of companies, seeks to help through its Kool Adventure Camp for out-of-school youth in Cebu.

CORPORATE CITIZEN

The KAC is a youth development program that espouses experiential education through outdoor activities, group dynamics, goal setting and organizational development.

The vision is to touch people through adventure.



RAFI president Roberto E. Aboitiz

Youth development

Rafi defines youth development as "a process which prepares young people to meet the challenges of adolescence and adulthood through a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences which help them to become socially, morally, emotionally, physically and cognitively competent."

The program was developed in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Services, United Nations Children's Fund and Cebu City Task Force for Street Children.

Under the program, young adults at least 14 years old described as "youth at risk" are made to go through a series of games and adventures for three days where they learn to cooperate with their fellow youth, set goals and dare themselves to dream big.

Rafi president Roberto E. Aboitiz said in an interview that many of the 30 young adults arrive at their doorstep looking very shy and timid with hardly any hope in their hearts or fire in their eyes.

Metamorphosis

It is a far different story, however, when they graduate from the camp.

"Their level of energy and attitude change is incredible. They suddenly get that feeling that, yes, they can do it. Sometimes tears fall down their faces because they now have aspirations. The metamorphosis is just amazing," Aboitiz said.

All it really took were expressions of appreciation, hugs of gratitude and kind words. These gestures of kindness helped make the youth realize that their lives did have meaning and that there was something for them to look forward to.

The Rafi gets 30 youth at one time to go through the adventure camp, which is held twice a month.

The program was started three years ago and it has graduated close to 400 young adults so far and Rafi has no intentions of stopping.

"We want to help develop a youth with a can-do attitude, a youth that will be the future leaders, the citizens of tomorrow," Aboitiz said.

Aboitiz said he knew that the program was working because many of the camp's graduates have moved on to do civic work in their communities.

Core programs

They also continued to meet regularly to craft programs to improve their lives.

The KAC is not only open to the out of school youth. It also caters to schools, young athletes, corporations and communities or non-government organizations who want to learn through adventure.

Programs such as the KAC that help people help themselves have been at the core of Rafi's activities since it was established by Aboitiz' father Eduardo.

The board of trustees decided to concentrate Rafi's activities in the Visayas and Mindanao, not only because the Aboitiz group operates in these areas but also because these are not reached by most corporate foundations.

Aside from the KAC, Rafi is also involved in the Cebu biodiversity program.

Nursery project

Rafi, in cooperation with the German Development Service, established a nursery of indigenous trees to provide awareness and knowledge concerning native trees to address the loss of the forest ecosystem.

These include the Akle, Narra, Ipil, Kulatingan, Kamagong/Mabolo, Anahaw, Yakal, Dao, Tugas, Aguna, Bagalunga and Kalantas.

The nursery caters to the needs of agencies and institutions involved in conservation and reforestation.

It also serves as a showcase to students and the public so that they may better appreciate the importance of indigenous trees in the ecosystem.

THE KAC is also open to companies and NGOs.

The Cebu forest ecosystem is considered the most critical and endangered in the Philippines. Studies show that 99 percent of Cebu's forest has been denuded due to indiscriminate logging.

Cultural arm

Rafi has also set up The Gorordo Museum, which aims to preserve Cebu's cultural heritage and promote local history.

Sitting at the former 19th century residence of Bishop Juan Garces Gorordo, the first Filipino Bishop of Cebu, The Gorordo Museum was established in 1983 to advocate the promotion of social history, understanding of Cebuano ethnicity and concern for historic preservation.

Another major program is the institutionalization of the Coalition for Better Education in partnership with the Aboitiz Group Foundation Inc. and the Philippine Business for Social Progress.

CBE is a multi-sectoral coalition dedicated to promoting responsive quality education and addressing challenges such as teacher training, faculty development, leadership and governance and curriculum development.

PARTICIPANTS in the Kool Adventure Camp are taught to trust each other.

Cityland to issue P3B in short-term papers

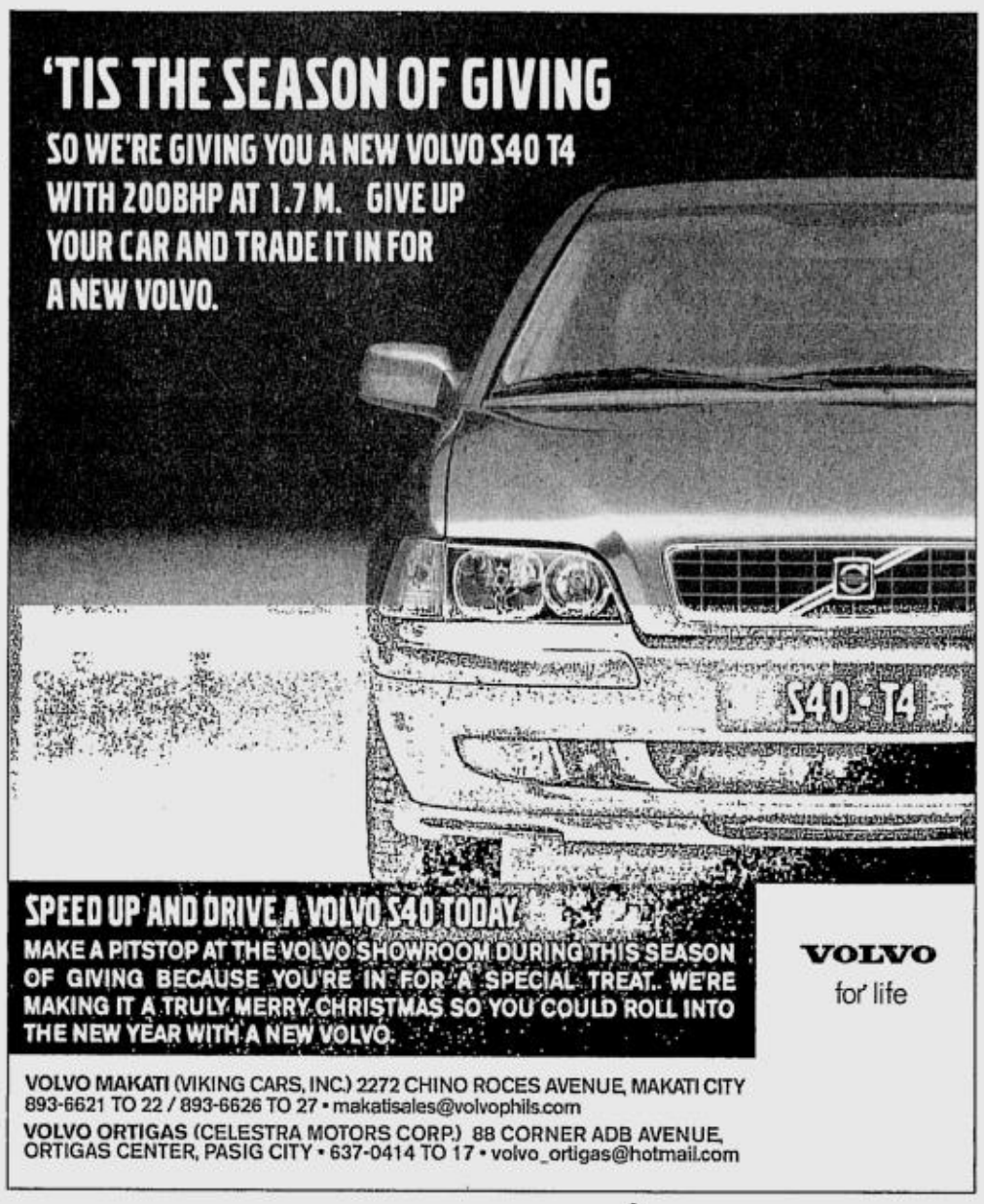
By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday approved the application of the Cityland real estate group to issue P3 billion worth of short-term commercial papers.

SEC documents showed that property firms Cityland Inc., City and Land Developers Inc. and Cityland Development Corp., controlled by businessman Stephen Roxas, would use the bulk of the proceeds of the STCps to pay maturing obligations.

The Cityland group is largely involved in the development of affordable residential and office condominium units.

Cityland Inc. said that P1.2 billion out of the P1.5 billion in proceeds would be used to pay maturing obligations. Some P250 million would be set aside for project-related costs and another P50 million would go to operating expenses.



NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

of William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc. ("WG&A")

Dear Stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the Special Meeting of Stockholders of William, Gothong & Aboitiz; Inc. (the "Company") which will be held on December 18, 2003 at Nash and Adam Function Rooms of Mandarin Oriental, Makati Avenue, Makati City at 2:00 P.M. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of Notice
3. Determination and Declaration of Quorum
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting of Stockholders
5. Approval of Declaration of Stock Dividends at the ratio of one (1) common share for every four (4) shares held*
6. Amendment of the 7th Article of the Articles of Incorporation for the Increase of the Authorized Capital Stock from 1,625,000,000 common shares with a par value of P1.00 per share to 3,123,000,000 common shares with a par value of P1.00 per share
7. Amendment of the 1st Article of the Articles of Incorporation to change the name of the Corporation from "William, Gothong & Aboitiz, Inc." to "Aboitiz Transport System Corporation" amending stockholders' resolution approved last November 11, 2002 to change the corporate name to "Aboitiz Transport Group, Inc." *
8. Amendment of Article 1 of the By-laws of the Corporation that the main office of the Corporation shall be located at the place designated under the 3rd Article of the Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation*
9. Such Other Matters as may properly come before the meeting
10. Adjournment

Only stockholders of record in the books of the Company at the close of business on November 6, 2003 will be entitled to vote at said stockholders' meeting.

Manila, Philippines, November 27, 2003.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
By:
Tiu, Helen Go
Tiu, Helen Go
Corporate Secretary

* This item will be taken up at the stockholders meeting subject to the approval of the Board of Directors at its meeting on November 27, 2003.

For inquiries regarding change of address and account status, please write or call:

SECURITIES TRANSFER SERVICES, INC.
4th Floor, Benpres Building Exchange Road cor. Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Tel Nos.: 449-7148; 634-7152
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4660, Series of 2003.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
TOLL REGULATORY BOARD

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

NORTH LUZON AND SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAYS
APPROVED TOLL RATE INCREASE

Notice is hereby given that in the Matter of Petition for Review of the Toll Rate Adjustment Granted by the Toll Regulatory Board to the Philippine National Construction Corporation for the North (Balintawak to Sta. Ines) and South (Alabang to Calamba) Luzon Expressways filed by the Southern Luzon Bus Operators' Association and Federation of Concerned Organization of Balut, as Petitioners, versus, the Philippine National Construction Corporation, as Respondent, the Toll Regulatory Board, after lengthy public hearings conducted for the purpose, has determined and decided that:

> **"WHEREFORE, the 29% adjustment in toll rates using the Return on Rate Base (RORB) Formula that was approved by the Board for the North Luzon and South Luzon Expressways, rounded off to the nearest peso, are hereby declared reasonable and the Instant Petitions are hereby DISMISSED."**

The following rates will therefore be implemented starting **01 December 2003** after publishing the same once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

A. SOUTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SNPED	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	ABI	CAB
Alabang										
Filinwest										
Susana Heights	2.00	1.00								
San Pedro	2.00	2.00	1.00							
Southwoods	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00						
Carmona	4.00	4.00	2.00	2.00	1.00					
Mamplasan	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	1.00				
Sta. Rosa	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	2.00	1.00			
ABI/Greenfield	7.00	6.00	5.00	5.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00		
Cabuyao	7.00	7.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	
Silangan	8.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	2.00	1.00	1.00
Calamba	10.00	9.00	8.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	2.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1 w/Trailer, Class 1-7 ft. & above ht.)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SNPED	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	ABI	CAB
Alabang										
Filinvest										
Susana Heights	3.00	2.00								
San Pedro	4.00	3.00	1.00							
Southwoods	7.00	6.00	4.00	3.00						
Carmona	8.00	7.00	5.00	4.00	1.00					
Mamplasan	10.00	9.00	6.00	5.00	3.00	2.00				
Sta. Rosa	11.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	4.00	3.00	2.00			
ABI/Greenfield	13.00	13.00	10.00	9.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	2.00		
Cabuyao	15.00	14.00	12.00	11.00	8.00	7.00	5.00	4.00	1.00	
Silangan	16.00	15.00	13.00	12.00	9.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	2.00	1.00
Calamba	19.00	18.00	16.00	15.00	12.00	11.00	9.00	8.00	6.00	4.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	ALA	FIL	SUS HTS	SNPED	SWOODS	CAR	MAM	STR	ABI	CAB
Alabang										
Filinvest										
Susana Heights	5.00	4.00								
San Pedro	6.00	5.00	2.00							
Southwoods	10.00	9.00	5.00	4.00						
Carmona	12.00	11.00	7.00	5.00	2.00					
Mamplasan	14.00	13.00	10.00	8.00	4.00	3.00				
Sta. Rosa	17.00	16.00	12.00	10.00	6.00	5.00	2.00			
ABI/Greenfield	20.00	19.00	15.00	14.00	10.00	8.00	6.00	3.00		
Cabuyao	22.00	21.00	17.00	16.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	5.00	2.00	
Silangan	24.00	22.00	19.00	17.00	13.00	12.00	9.00	7.00	4.00	1.00
Calamba	29.00	27.00	24.00	22.00	18.00	17.00	14.00	12.00	8.00	6.00

Note: The Metro Manila Skyway System (At-Grade Section from Magallanes to Alabang and the Elevated Section) is excluded in the above toll rate increase.

(PDI – November 16, 21 & 28, 2003)

B. NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY

CLASS 1 (Cars, Jeepneys, Pick-ups, Vans)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MEX	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	2.00												
Valenzuela	2.00												
Lawang Bato	3.00	1.00											
Meycauayan	4.00	2.00											
St. Francis	4.00	2.00											
Marilao	5.00	3.00	1.00										
Bocaue	6.00	4.00	2.00	1.00									
Balagtas	8.00	6.00	4.00	3.00	2.00								
Guiguinto	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	2.00								
Tabang	9.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	3.00	1.00							
Sta. Rita	10.00	8.00	6.00	5.00	4.00								
Pulilan	12.00	10.00	8.00	7.00	6.00		2.00						
San Simon	16.00	14.00	12.00	11.00	10.00		6.00	4.00					
San Fernando	19.00	17.00	15.00	14.00	13.00		9.00	7.00	3.00				
Mexico	21.00	19.00	17.00	16.00	15.00		11.00	9.00	5.00	2.00			
Angeles	24.00	22.00	20.00	19.00	18.00		14.00	12.00	8.00	5.00	3.00		
Dau	25.00	23.00	21.00	20.00	19.00		15.00	13.00	9.00	6.00	4.00	1.00	
Sta. Ines	26.00	24.00	23.00	22.00	20.00		17.00	14.00	11.00	8.00	6.00	3.00	2.00

CLASS 2 (Light Trucks, Tourist/School & PUB, Class 1 w/Trailer, Class 1-7 ft. & above ht.)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MEX	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	3.00												
Valenzuela	4.00												
Lawang Bato	6.00	1.00											
Meycauayan	7.00	3.00											
St. Francis	8.00	3.00											
Marilao	9.00	5.00	2.00										
Bocaue	12.00	8.00	5.00	3.00									
Balagtas	15.00	11.00	8.00	6.00	3.00								
Guiguinto	17.00	13.00	9.00	7.00	5.00								
Tabang	18.00	14.00	11.00	9.00	6.00	2.00							
Sta. Rita	19.00	15.00	12.00	10.00	7.00								
Pulilan	24.00	20.00	17.00	15.00	12.00		5.00						
San Simon	32.00	27.00	24.00	22.00	20.00		12.00	8.00					
San Fernando	37.00	33.00	30.00	28.00	25.00		18.00	13.00	6.00				
Mexico	42.00	38.00	34.00	32.00	30.00		22.00	18.00	10.00	4.00			
Angeles	48.00	43.00	40.00	38.00	36.00		28.00	24.00	16.00	10.00	6.00		
Dau	49.00	45.00	42.00	40.00	37.00		30.00	25.00	18.00	12.00	7.00	2.00	
Sta. Ines	53.00	49.00	46.00	43.00	41.00		33.00	29.00	21.00	15.00	11.00	5.00	4.00

CLASS 3 (Heavy & Multi-Axled Trucks/Trailers)

ENTRY/EXIT POINTS	BWK	VAL	MEY	MAR	BOC	GUI	STR	PUL	SNM	SNF	MEX	ANG	DAU
Mapulang Lupa	5.00												
Valenzuela	6.00												
Lawang Bato	8.00	2.00											
Meycauayan	11.00	5.00											
St. Francis	11.00	5.00											
Marilao	14.00	8.00	3.00										
Bocaue	18.00	12.00	7.00	4.00									
Balagtas	23.00	17.00	12.00	9.00	5.00								
Guiguinto	25.00	19.00	14.00	11.00	7.00								
Tabang	28.00	21.00	17.00	13.00	10.00	3.00							
Sta. Rita	29.00	23.00	18.00	15.00	11.00								
Pulilan	36.00	30.00	25.00	22.00	18.00		7.00						
San Simon	47.00	41.00	37.00	33.00	29.00		18.00	11.00					
San Fernando	56.00	50.00	45.00	42.00	38.00		27.00	20.00	9.00				
Mexico	62.00	56.00	52.00	48.00	45.00		33.00	27.00	15.00	6.00			
Angeles	71.00	65.00	61.00	57.00	53.00		42.00	35.00	24.00	15.00	9.00		
Dau	74.00	68.00	63.00	60.00	56.00		45.00	38.00	26.00	18.00	11.00	2.00	
Sta. Ines	79.00	73.00	68.00	65.00	61.00		50.00	43.00	32.00	23.00	17.00	8.00	5.00

SO ORDERED.

By Authority of the Board
(Sgd.) JAIME S. DUMLAO, JR.
Executive Director

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Tel. No. 931-8101 to 07

27 November 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE for the Welfareville Property, through the Welfareville Development Project Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC), is inviting interested parties to participate in the bidding for the sale of a portion of the Welfareville property located in Mandaluyong City known as **Parcel Two-West Side** with an approximate area of 288,770 square meters.

Interested parties may submit their Letters of Intent not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning on 08 December 2003 and address the same for the attention of:

The Chairperson
Welfareville Development Project
Bids and Awards Committee (WDP-BAC)
c/o Asset Management Group, Ground Floor
DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills
Diliman, Quezon City

The bid Documents/Terms of Reference (TOR) for the sale of said Parcel Two shall be ready for distribution on **05 December 2003** at a non-refundable cost of Php 5,000.00 for each Bid Documents/TOR payable to DSWD in cash or manager/s check. The Bid Documents/TOR shall be obtained from **Ms. Ma. Suzette M. Agcaoili, CESO III, Director IV, Asset Management Group** at the abovementioned address, telefax no. 931-91-45 or tel. no. 931-81-01 loc. 142.

A **Pre-Bid Conference** will be held at 10:01 o'clock in the morning on **08 December 2003**, at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those who have submitted Letters of Intent and secured the Bid Documents/TOR shall be allowed to participate in the Pre-Bid Conference.

Deadline for submission of bids is 10:00 o'clock in the morning on 05 January 2004. Immediately thereafter, or at 10:01 o'clock in the morning, the bids shall be opened. Submission of bids and opening thereof shall be at the Boardroom, 4th Floor, DSWD New Building, Constitution Hills, Diliman, Quezon City.

The TRUSTEE COMMITTEE, through the WDP-BAC, reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason, waive any defect or required formality therein, assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation, and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) MYLENE G. ALBANO
Assistant Secretary, DENR
Chairperson, WDP-BAC

(PDI – November 28 & December 3, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

On October 3, 2003, agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) raided a suspected distributor of fake "SANDCUT" and "SANDFLEX" Hacksaw blades bearing marks resembling the "SANDVIK" trademark, belonging to SANDVIK AKTIEBOLAG (hereinafter referred to as "Sandvik AB") and the "FISH AND HOOK" Design, belonging to KAPMAN AKTIEBOLAG (hereinafter referred to as "Kapman AB") owned by BAHCO AB, in Parañaque City, Metro Manila. The NBI agents served the search warrant issued by the Regional Trial Court of Parañaque City, Branch 258 on HORIZON ELECTRICAL SUPPLY & GENERAL MERCHANDISE / Paul Desierto Po otherwise known as Pablo P. Desierto at the latter's residence located at No. 18 Don Ramon R.Santos Street, Phase 6A, BF Homes, Parañaque.

NBI operatives seized two hundred sixty-three (263) boxes of fake "SANDCUT" and "SANDFLEX" Hacksaw blades from HORIZON ELECTRICAL SUPPLY & GENERAL MERCHANDISE / Paul Desierto Po otherwise known as Pablo P. Desierto. Sandvik AB and Kapman AB are now preparing the necessary criminal and civil complaint-charges against the said establishment and the alleged owner/proprietor, Paul Desierto Po otherwise known as Pablo P. Desierto. If convicted, Paul Desierto Po otherwise known as Pablo P. Desierto may face penalties of imprisonment from two (2) to five (5) years per charge of unfair competition and trademark infringement plus fines of P50,000.00 to P200,000.00 per conviction.

Sandvik AB and BAHCO AB are warning all establishments selling or distributing fake Sandvik Products that it will not hesitate to prosecute any person, party or establishment engaged in the traffic of fake Sandvik products.

PLATON MARTINEZ FLORES
SAN PEDRO & LEAÑO
Counsel for SANDVIK AB
6th Floor TUSCAN Building
114 Rufino Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City

(PDI--Nov. 28, 30 & Dec. 3, 2003)

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A CYCLIST rides in front of a construction site in Beijing Nov. 27, 2003. China may be succeeding in its attempt to cool its overheating economy and avoid a hard landing, analysts said after the release of key figures for last month's national performance. REUTERS

Asian markets ignore fresh data

SINGAPORE—Increasing evidence of a global economic recovery did little to excite Asian share markets on Thursday, as the dollar steadied and gold retreated from a New York rally that took it to more than $400 an ounce.

Japan's Nikkei stock average rose slightly, supported by banks such as Mizuho Financial Group after their earnings results. But thin conditions, with US-based funds away for the US Thanksgiving holiday, kept trade muted.

The Nikkei closed up 0.18 percent at 10,163.38.

European shares were expected to open slightly firmer after US stocks recovered from an early dip to end higher on Wednesday after supportive economic news.

Financial bookmakers forecast the FTSE 100 share index would open about 12 points higher, to claw back most of Wednesday's 18.4-point slide to 4,370.3.

The MSCI's broad index of Asian share markets outside of Japan was 0.27 percent lower. Singapore's Times Index, the region's top gainer, rose 0.74 percent, led by technology stocks such as Creative Technology.

The Philippine peso slipped more than half a percent to a record low of 55.85 per dollar on rising political risk and after Moody's Investors Service said it may downgrade the country's sovereign ratings.

Taiwan shares sagged more than two percent as investors braced for a parliamentary vote on whether the island should have the right to hold referendums.

The dollar recovered slight New York losses suffered on a report of a suspicious gas in the New York subway, but police said it was not related to terrorism.

Weekly US jobless claims fell to 351,000 in the week to Nov. 22, the lowest since January 2001. October US durable goods orders rose 3.3 percent, soaring above Wall Street's expectations of a 0.8 percent gain.

The Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index for November rose unexpectedly to 64.1, easily beating a consensus forecast of 56, and was the highest level since February 1995.

US stocks edged higher, gaining little support from positive economic data. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 0.16 percent at 9,779.57.

Shrugging off the upbeat numbers from the United States, Japanese traders were also unfazed by improved domestic data as retail sales in October rose 0.2 percent from a year earlier, the first rise in 31 months.

Japanese government bond (JGB) prices were flat with the upside weighed down by resilient Tokyo stock prices and investor caution over other economic indicators later in the week.

Australian stocks were in a holding pattern ahead of Wall Street's holiday, with the benchmark S&P/ASX 200 index down 0.18 percent, at 3,185.8.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index rose 0.23 percent to 12,114.30 by midday, and South Korea's KOSPI lost 0.12 percent to 781.68.

Crude oil futures were untraded in Asia—the market is closed until Monday to mark the US holiday—but gained in New York on a big drop in US supplies in the latest week. *Reuters*

Japan retail sales up in October

TOKYO—Japanese retail sales rose for the first time in 31 months in October, gaining 0.2 percent from a year earlier and adding to evidence that the world's number two economy is emerging from more than a decade of stagnation.

Sales rose 0.8 percent from September, seasonally adjusted, while sales at large stores were up a preliminary 0.3 percent from a year earlier on a same-store basis, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti) said on Thursday.

The figures are good news for Japan's embattled retailers and, with personal consumption making up some 55 percent of Japan's economy, could point the way to stronger growth.

"Consumption in the July-September quarter was subdued by bad weather but the figures underscore the view that it is gradually picking up," said Naoki Murakami, senior economist at Goldman Sachs.

"There are a lot of one-off factors, so you can't really say we're in a full-fledged recovery, but the figures show things are not terrible either," Murakami added.

Meti said the sales were boosted by demand for autumn and winter clothing as October temperatures in Japan fell below average. That followed a September when warmer than average weather had left retailers with stocks of unsold winter wear.

A Meti official declined to say whether the October surge was due to the release of pent-up demand from the previous month and could not say if the rise was the start of an upward trend.

"What is true is that there were strong sales of winter clothing in October," the official said, adding that the ministry had not changed its assessment that sales in general were showing weakness but with some bright spots. *Reuters*

China sees decline in trade surplus

BEIJING—China's trade surplus could swing to deficit in coming years, easing pressure on the yuan currency blamed by Washington for giving China's goods an unfair trade advantage, a senior central banker said on Thursday.

China's move to cut tax incentives for exporters and soaring imports from the rest of Asia could narrow China's long-enjoyed trade surplus and turn it eventually into deficit, said Dai Genyou, head of the central bank's credit information division.

"China's trade surplus has shown a declining trend in recent years and successive annual trade deficits may occur" in coming years, Dai told a financial forum.

"There are inappropriate expectations of a renminbi appreciation, but such expectations will change when they clearly see the trend of trade deficit," he said.

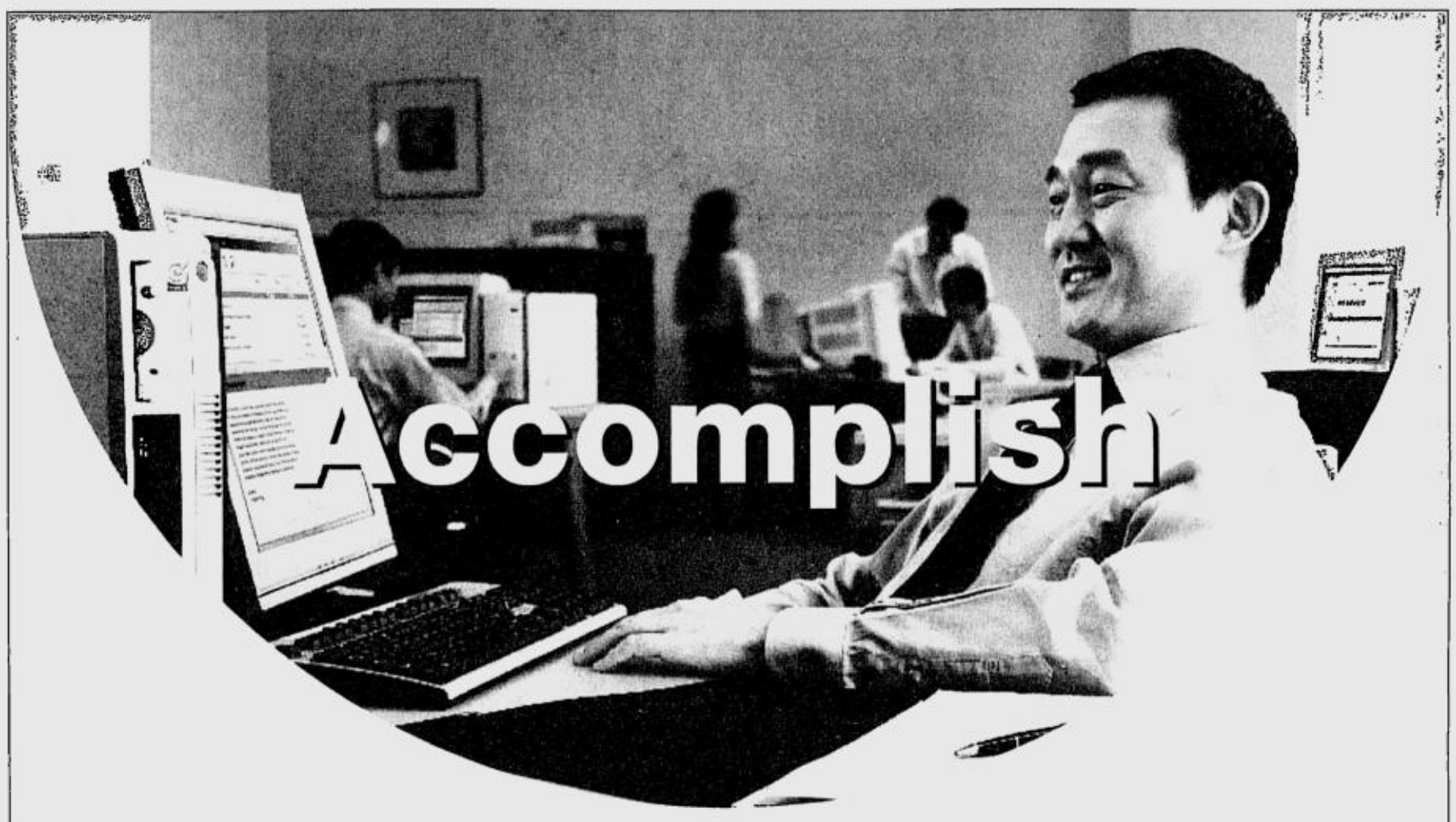
Solid trade surpluses and strong foreign investment have underpinned the yuan's exchange rate and fueled upward pressure on the currency.

But China's trade surplus plunged an annual 40 percent in the first 10 months of this year to $14.87 billion despite a 21 percent year-on-year surge in October.

Underscoring China's voracious appetite for raw materials and components to feed booming factories, imports in the January-October period leapt 40 percent on the year to $333.7 billion while exports climbed 33 percent to $348.6 billion.

China has resisted calls for a revaluation of the renminbi (yuan), which is pegged at around 8.28 to the US dollar, but has pledged to reform the currency regime eventually.

The peg has been criticized by Washington for giving Chinese goods an unfair advantage at the cost of US manufacturing jobs. *Reuters*



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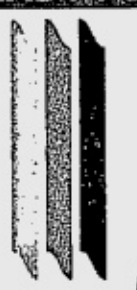

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89Patrol 260T 0918-9290592

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RAV 4 96 CBU Red 3dr A/T
Loaded 111 Plate 430T Neg
0919-3434034 • 433-0315 Yen

TOYOTA SURF 0917-9361201

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TROOPER TERRANO DELICA
TOWN-LITE ACE SPACE GEAR
SERENA ETC A1 W/WARRANTY
FINANCE TRADE IN OK 8328659

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1T/Hiace 9136710/4333682

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CAR VANS 410-0495

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-9296

CARS/ VANS/ BUS/ 8969956

L300 ADV. 741-1356

MB-100 7415897

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX 12 seater 7318549

Van 0917-9143792 • 6421840

Vans For Rent 941-2546

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

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1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% CARLOAN 952-2510

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/o Taking Car 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 826-7840

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLAN 8061574

EDUCATION PLANS 7137284

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale Nov. 29 & 30
(Sat. & Sun.) 9:30AM #3 Ponce
St., San Lorenzo Village Makati

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

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DEFECT TV/A'CON etc 7325865

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18-50 Hi-Salary Betty 4385743

OFC/MKTG STF 0920-3562010

WANTED: Accountant Computer
Literate FINE FANCY Bldg B
Basement SM Megamall

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Attn Candidates, Lawyers,etc!!
1. Updated Omnibus Election Code of the Phil - P250/copy
2. Revised Comelec Rules of Procedure - P150/copy
Above books are available at:
•All Rex Book Stores
•Central Professional Books Quezon Avenue Quezon City
•No.33 Maamo St. Sikatuna Village Diliman Quezon City
Telefax: 9229417; 4368166
•1161 Edsa, Balintawak QC
Tel: 4157810; 09205085093
c/o Magdalena Mendoza

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

DIAJADE PAWNSHOP
LAS PINAS
METRO MANILA
Will have its auction sale on December 08, 2003. All unredeemed pledges during the month of July 01-31, 2003. Diajade Main - 8:30am Diajade Br.II-11:30am Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioner

Nuestra-Damus Pawnshop
Makati City
Auction Sale on December 06, 2003 all unredeemed pledges during the month of July 01-31, 2003. Nuestra Br. II Pio-9:30am; Nuestra Br. I 10:30am; DamusPawnshop-12:30pm; Nuestra Main -1:30pm; Nuestra Br. IX - 3:00pm. Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ELADIO SANTIAGO & BONIFACIA BUENAVENTURA was extra judicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. No. 318 Page No. 73 Bk. No. 120 Series of 2003 before Notary Public FELIPE G. ANTONIO of Paranaque.
(PDI - Nov. 14, 21 & 28, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Extra Income? 026510616

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Consign 09167940002

SINGAPOREAN looking for partners to develop new industry with patented technology 0927-4936266

SMART E-LOAD EASIEST WAY
GLOBE AUTO LOAD 7252311

Work By Phone, Earn Up 2
P30T/month!
Female, 23&up! 892-7828

XMASLITES 3SETS/P100
Trees Ropelites Etc. 532-3909

MUSEUM UNVEILED AT JOHN HAY CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

The John Hay Historical Core, a living museum which features a collection of memorabilia and old photos that speak of the colorful history of the camp, was formally opened Oct. 25 at the 100th year anniversary of Camp John Hay in Baguio City. Shown at the ribbon-cutting ceremonies are (front row, left) Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) Chairman and John Hay Management Corporation (JHMC) President & CEO Florencio Padernal, Tourism Regional Director Purificacion Molintas, Tourism Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig, Baguio District Representative Mauricio Domogan, Baguio Vice Mayor Betty Lourdes Tabanda, Camp John Hay Development Corporation (CJHDevCo) President Robert John Sobrepeña, and JHMC Chairman Fortunato Abat and JHMC Director Loreto Pangilinan. The celebration relived tradition during the American period and rekindled the appreciation of the pine-forested historical masterpiece – Camp John hay.

National conference of extension directors set at PNU

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) in coordination with the International Affairs Service of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (UNESCO ASPnet) will be conducting the National Conference of University/ College Administrators and Faculty on Academic Linkages and Extension Programs Among Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) with the theme, "University/Colleges Linkages and Extension Programs Toward a Culture of Sharing and Service" on November 28-29, 2003 at the Philippine Normal University Audio-Visual Theater, Taft Avenue, Manila.

This national conference provides an opportunity among Teacher Education Institutions (TEI's) to highlight and showcase programs on academic linkages and extension as well as a venue to further enhance existing networking with government agencies and civil society. The conference likewise explores possibilities for national and international networking and collaboration among TEI's in various concerns such as internationalization of education via faculty and student exchange, scholarships, fellowships and twinning programs.

The Commission on Higher Education has issued a memo endorsing the abovementioned conference to all private and state colleges and universities. Dr. Nilo L. Rosas, president of PNU will welcome the guests and participants. Conference Convenor is Prof. Ronald Allan S. Mabunga.

For details, please contact Prof. Arthur S. Abulencia at telefax (632) 527-0367 or (0920) 585-4253 for further inquiries and advance reservations.

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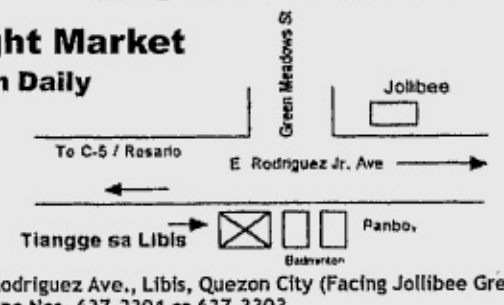

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P.O. Box Nos. 213 U.P. Quezon City; 932 Manila; 1314 Central, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 929-6010 to 19 *Fax No.* 920-1846

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Nuclear Institute (PNRI) is inviting all interested bidders for our forthcoming public bidding:

1 Lot CALIBRATION SYSTEM FOR BRACHYTHERAPY SOURCES W/ ACCESSORIES & CERTIFICATION OF CALIBRATION.

Issuance of Eligibility requirements	:	DECEMBER 5, 2003
Pre-bid conference	:	To be announced later
Bidding	:	To be announced later

The approved budget is **ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P1,499,500.00).**

For inquiries, interested parties may contact the PBAC Secretariat at **Tel. Nos. 929-60-11 to 19 loc. 275 (c/o Ms. Julie Mendoza).**

The Bids and Awards Committee and the Institute reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect thereto, accept bids as may be deemed advantageous thereto of postpone the bidding for whatever cause it may deem proper.

In case of failure, a re-bidding shall automatically be scheduled five (5) calendar days after the announcement of failed bidding at the same time and place at the first bidding.

(Sgd.) **ALUMANDA M. DELA ROSA, Ph.D.**
Director

(PDI–Nov. 28, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

CORPORATION FINANCE DEPARTMENT

IN THE MATTER OF : APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A FINANCING COMPANY
OPPN FINANCING COMPANY, INC. :

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to engage in financing business in accordance with Sections 2, 4, and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to implement the Provisions of R.A. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of 1998). Its principal office shall be located at 0085 Pioneer Avenue, Tagum City, Davao del Norte.

The applicant's capital structure is as follows:

Authorized Capital Stock	P5,000,000.00
Subscribed Capital Stock	5,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital Stock	2,640,000.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

Name	Position
Pedro P. Panes, Jr.	Chairman/President
Melanie P. Espina	Director/Vice-President
Leonisa P. Rien	Director/Secretary
Newlyn P. Parrera	Director/Treasurer
Christine P. Espina	Director

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicuous place in the City/Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice. If the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. 8556, the implementing Rules and Regulations and other pertinent laws have been complied with and no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.

November 6, 2003

(Sgd.) MA. GRACIA F. CASALS
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI–Nov. 21 & 28, 2003)

OFFICE SPACE FOR SALE / LEASE

- Location: Suite 2501-A 25th floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Building, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
- Area: 405 square meters, with 2 units of basement parking
- Amenities: Carpeted Rooms, Conference Room, Pantry, 3 Restrooms
- For site inspection and other particulars, kindly contact Mr. Lee, Ja Young of the General Affairs Department, anytime during office hours at Tel. No. 848-02-31 to 39.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH I
SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA

CIVIL CASE NO. 8720

CARWORLD INC.
Plaintiff/s.
– versus –
PASCUAL GO,
Defendant/s.

– for –
SUM OF MONEY

x - - - - - - - - - - - - **S-U-M-M-O-N-S** - - - - - - - - - - - - x

TO:

PASCUAL GO – 184-186 Mapan Road
Valenzuela, Metro Manila

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court of the Municipal Trial Court, Branch I, San Fernando, Pampanga, Philippines, not less than sixty (60) days from notice/service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of such service your answer to the complaint of the plaintiff/s, a copy of which is hereto attached and herewith served upon you and to serve a copy of said answer, within the same period upon the plaintiff/s: If you fail to answer within the time aforesaid, the plaintiff/s will take judgment against you by default and demand from said Court the relief applied for in said judgment.

WITNESS THE HON. MARIA CONCEPCION YUMANG-PANGAN, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 20th day of October 2003 at San Fernando, Pampanga.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO C. PAGSANJAN
Clerk of Court I

Respectfully referred to the

_____
for immediate service & return.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH I
CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA

CARWORLD, INC.,
Plaintiff,
– versus –
PASCUAL GO,
Defendant.
x - - - - - - - - - - - - x

CIVIL CASE NO. 8720
– for –
"SUM OF MONEY"

COMPLAINT

The plaintiff, by counsel, to this Honorable Court allege:

1. That the plaintiff is a duly organized corporation with business address at Gapan-Olongapo Road, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga;

2. That defendant is also of legal age and a resident of 184-186 Mapan Road, Valenzuela, Metro Manila, where he may appropriate served with summons and other legal processes of this Court;

3. That defendant is the registered owner of a vehicle described as follows:

Make & Type — Galant VR
Plate No. — UBK - 325

4. That on January 26, 2002 defendant referred the said vehicle for repairs to the service station of the plaintiff;

5. That the vehicle was not actually repaired because after the delivery, the defendant never returned for confirmation of the repair services;

6. That since then up to this time defendant failed to redeem said vehicle, incurring an accumulated storage fee of P168,000.00;

7. That despite demands, the said vehicle remains unclaimed and is still in the possession of the plaintiff;

8. That in order to enforce its claim, plaintiff was constrained to litigate spending the sum of P25,000.00, as attorney's fees.

WHEREFORE, premises considered it is prayed that judgment be rendered as follows ordering the defendant to pay:

1) The sum of P168,000.00 as storage fee as of filing of this complaint;
2) The sum of P25,000.00 as attorney's fee;
3) In case of failure to pay the said sum, to sell the vehicle to satisfy the said amount by way of mechanics lien.

Other reliefs and remedies likewise prayed for.

City of San Fernando, Pampanga, August 22, 2002.

VIRAY RONGCAL BELTRAN YUMUL LAW OFFICE
Counsel for the plaintiff
R - 201 2nd Floor, St. Anthony Drug II
B. Mendoza St., City of San Fernando (P)
by:

ATLEE T. VIRAY
IBP NO. 546191-1.07.02
PTR NO. 4658135-1.07.02
City of San Fernando (P)

VERIFICATION/CERTIFICATION

I, EFREN OLALIA, of legal age, UNDER OATH, do hereby depose and state;

1. That I am the Senior Manager/Branch Head of Carworld, Inc., Marilao Branch of the plaintiff in the above-entitled case;

2. That I have caused the preparation of the foregoing complaint;

3. That I have not commenced any other action involving the same issues before the Supreme Court or any other tribunal or agency;

4. That to the best of my knowledge no such action or proceeding is pending before the Supreme Court or any other tribunal or agency;

5. That if I should learn thereafter that a similar action has been filed or is pending before any tribunal, I undertake to report such fact within five (5) days from knowledge to this Honorable Court;

6. That all material allegations contained in the foregoing complaint are true and correct of my own personal knowledge and belief.

IN WITNESS WEHREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this August 22, 2002 at City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

(Sgd.) EFREN D. OLALIA
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this August 22, 2002 at City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

(Sgd.) ATLEE T. VIRAY
Notary Public
Until December 31, 2003
PTR No. 4658137-1/07/02
City of San Fernando (P)

Doc. No. 193:
Page No. 39:
Book No. 73:
Series of 2002.

(PDI – Nov. 14, 21 & 28, 2003)

URGENT RECRUITMENT

The Government of the Philippines - United Nations Multi Donor Programme implementing peace and development in Southern Philippines is in search of qualified individuals for the following posts in Mindanao.

1. Project Engineer (1)

The services of the Engineer is needed in the construction and renovation of BHS in various PDCs in UNFPA and Non-UNFPA areas in region XII and ARMM and to support the Relief and Rehab Component particularly on the construction of shelters. The Project Engineer under the overall supervision of the Programme Coordinator and will perform the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Review and revise the existing construction and renovation guidelines in partnership with LGU and community; incorporate lessons learned from past implementation
2. Prepare guidelines/steps in the construction of BHS
3. Provide standard plans, bill of materials and cost estimates
4. Conduct site visits/assessment to proposed sites
5. Assist in the creation of Construction and renovation Monitoring Team
6. Review required documents such as Deed of Donations and Barangay Resolutions, lot plans/ vicinity maps of proposed sites, etc.
7. Monitor implementation to ensure compliance with plans and specifications
8. Review and recommend payment of materials needed at site
9. Provide regular appropriate feedback to MDP3 on the status of the construction component of the project at monthly meetings
10. Participate in the identification and resolution of problems and bottlenecks during implementation, and
11. Perform other related duties that may be required

Qualifications: License Civil Engineer. At least three (3) years experience in a development setting. Able to converse in most of the dialects in Southern Philippines.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (1)

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer shall report directly to the Programme Coordinator. With duty station in PCST Davao City, specifically he/she shall:

1. Coordinate and manage M&E/MIS of the 7 components, sub-components, projects and sub-projects
2. Design and install an M & E system, detailing the required indicators in the line with the programs, strategies/operations plans and manual; data flow; responsible staff/agencies for collection of date; methods of analysis and reporting
3. Coordinate with the Component Managers and appropriate units/division of the LGUs, NGAs, ARMM Departments, UN Technical Advisers/specialist/Project Teams and other donor agencies at the area level of effectively carry out an integrated MIS
4. Ensure that all agencies and personnel involved at the area level effectively carry out an integrated M & E system.
5. Coordinate with the MIS and Technical Assistants, specially in the submission of monthly, quarterly and other progress reports, based on information submitted to the Programme Coordinator and collected by the MIS staff
6. Report to the Programme Coordinator on the progress of each component, highlighting outstanding issues
7. Design and prepare the Mid-term and end-of-program evaluation analysis and other studies deemed necessary by the PCST
8. Together with the MIS staff, establish the baseline of target communities and the inflow of various assistance from NGAs, NGOs POs and other donor agencies

Qualifications: At least 5 years managerial experience in M & E systems. Masteral units in Sociology/ Economics/Statistics/Management/Rural Development/Computer Science/Computer Engineering. Proven competence in M & E computer software. Familiar with the culture, history and current situation in Southern Philippines. Able to converse in most dialects in Southern Philippines.

Preferably all applicants should come from Mindanao. All application letters and comprehensive resumé should reach our office on or before 05 December 2003. Address applications to Winston Aylmer A. Camariñas. Programme Coordinator, GOP-UN Multi Donor Programme. 119 Francisco Avenue Juna Subdivision, Matina Davao City Tel/Fax# (082) 298-4307.

(PDI–Nov. 28, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 4212327; 9116001 loc 6592
Website: www.afp.mil.ph / e-mail: cosb.j9@afp.mil.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **ACQUISITION OF ONE (1) F-27-500 AIRCRAFT AND ITS INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SUPPORT (ILS)** for the Philippine Air Force with an approved budget of **Ninety One Million and Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 91,200,000.00)** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from prime contractors duly certified by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the F-27-500 and/or by appropriate Government Aviation Authority/Agency shall be entertained.

The bid documents will be available for issuance starting **22 November 2003** until **14 December 2003** during office hours (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Nine Thousand Pesos (Php 9,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **01 December 2003** at 2:00 PM (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat three (3) days before the Pre-Bid Conference.

The deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and bid envelopes is scheduled on **15 December 2003** at 9:00 AM (local time) to be immediately followed by the Opening of Bids at the Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids based on the grounds specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of his bid.

FOR THE CHAIRMAN, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE:

(Original Signed)
ROBERTO G NUQUI
Brigadier General AFP
Vice-Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Nov. 22 & 28, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
Region I Field Office

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) hereby invites offers to purchase by way of sealed bids on the following properties:

NAME/LOCATION OF PROPERTY	REMARKS	HOUSE AREA., sm	LOT AREA, sm	MINIMUM BID PRICE, Pesos
1. Villa Manaoag Subdivision, Phase I				
Inwentory Bgy. Pugaro,				
Manaoag, Pangasinan				
BLK NO. / LOT NO.				
1 / 6	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	163.00	180,000.00
1 / 11	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	142.00	180,000.00
1 / 12	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	154.00	180,000.00
5 / 4	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	162.00	180,000.00
2. Villa Manaoag Subdivision, Phase II	Lots only/Titled		16,681.00	4,737,981.51
(70 lots) Bgy. Pugaro, Manaoag				
Pangasinan				
3. Block 6, Lot 31, Villa Pozorrubio	House & Lot/Titled	25.00	60.00	225,000.00
Subdivision, Bgy. Alipangpang,				
Pozorrubio, Pangasinan				
4. 160 Castro-Sarmento Subdivision,	House & Lot/Titled	102.00	185.00	650,000.00
Bolosan District, Dagupan City, Pangasinan				

A bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's check payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders.

The bidder is advised to inspect the actual condition of the property/ies subject of public bidding. All property/ies are being sold on "as-is" basis. Particulars may be obtained at the Region I Field Office, 2/F Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City, or call (074) 443-60-33 (074) 443-95-85, or (074) 446-48-81.

Sealed bids must be received on or before 2:00 p.m., Monday, 15 December 2003 at the 2/F, Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFER, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 28, 29 & 30, 2003)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio Philippines Tel No (632) 812-6209

PNOC
The Energy Company

INVITATION TO BID
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders to bid for the lease of the following PNOC properties:

Description and Location of Property	TCT No.	Area (sq.m.)	Minimum Bid
1. Vacant Lot Juan Luna Ave. cor. A. Soriano Ave. (within North Reclamation) Area) Cebu City	7016	1,026	P97,000/month
2. Vacant Lot Poblacion, Lingayen Pangasinan	195481	1,019	P29,000/month

Bid forms, bidding guidelines, terms and conditions can be secured during office hours of **December 1-15, 2003** from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Estate Management Department, PNOC Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.

A pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on **January 14, 2004.**

Award of the lease of the above properties shall be based on the ***BEST OFFER/PROPOSAL*** received from the bidders.

The bidder further acknowledges that he/she has been given every opportunity to investigate, inspect and verify the properties offered for lease to ascertain the actual conditions thereof as well as the status of the titles.

PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bid offers/proposals or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids or portion of bids as may be advantageous to PNOC.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization
of PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI – Nov. 28 & 29 & 30, 2003)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

11th Floor Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Bidding Committee shall conduct a public bidding for the sale of the following acquired residential properties on December 22, 2003, MONDAY, 2:00 PM at 6th Flr Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City:

PROP NO.	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO.	AREA LOT/FLOOR	MINIMUM BID
1	BLK 05 LOT 59 CAMELLA HOMES BARCELONA 3 BO TANZANG LUMA IMUS CAVITE	T-1012157	77 00/40 00	537,409 84
2	BLK 42 LOT 20 CARISSA HOMES EAST 1 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110955	32 00/18 00	154,560 70
3	BLK 79 LOT 15 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110961	32 00/18 00	158,764 30
4	BLK 04 LOT 06 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110956	42 00/20 62	170,941 30
5	BLK 12 LOT 17 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110150	63 00/20 62	240,622 18
6	BLK 58 LOT 29 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110090	45 00/18 00	187,069 70
7	BLK 01 LOT 04 CARISSA HOMES NORTH 6C BO STO. CRISTO, SJDM, BULACAN	T-35287 P(M)	55 00/20 62	238,548 23
8	BLK 23 LOT 40 CARISSA HOMES NORTH 6 BRGY STO CRISTO SJDM, BULACAN	T-385805(M)	45 00/20 62	189,754 56
9	BLK 18 LOT 20 CARISSA HOMES TANZA PH4 BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-883657	61 00/20 62	240,038 13
10	BLK 05 LOT 09 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-887183	35 00/20 62	175,317.10
11	BLK 20 LOT 19 PH3B CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA, CAVITE	T-884354	35 00/20 62	170,353 60
12	BLK 15 LOT 24 PH5 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA, CAVITE	T-884352	33 00/18 00	199,417 17
13	BLK 03 LOT 10 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-884349	35 00/20 62	170 353 60
14	BLK 40 LOT 57 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-884350	33 00/18 00	186,163 77
15	BLK 73 LOT 48 PH6 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA, CAVITE	T-913090	33 00/18 00	181,190 81
16	BLK 147 LOT 26 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-911933	33 00/18 00	184,306 65
17	BLK 141 LOT 46 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-913092	33 00/18 00	200,425 00
18	BLK 104 LOT 40 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-913089	33 00/18 00	187,218 88
19	BLK 08 LOT 22 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-944537	69 00/20 62	268,342 58
20	BLK 17 LOT 22 PH4 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-894594	61 00/20 62	240,038 13
21	BLK 135 LOT 39 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-953823	33 00/18 00	197,804 64
22	BLK 44 LOT 08 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-601411	42 00/20 62	198,336 39
23	BLK 11 LOT 34 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-681268	35 00/20 62	172,407 82
24	BLK 08 LOT 26 PH2 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980395	35 00/20 62	173,954 47
25	BLK 26 LOT 26 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980401	54 00/20 62	231,142 58
26	BLK 34 LOT 10 PH3B CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980398	54 00/20 62	229,308 19
27	BLK 29 LOT 02 PH3B CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980390	79 00/20 62	280,016 08
28	BLK 08 LOT 20 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980404	53 50/20 62	242,061 28
29	BLK 16 LOT 02 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980403	55 50/20 62	237,990 44
30	BLK 08 LOT 17 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980412	35 00/20 62	173,254 47
31	BLK 15 LOT 20 PH5 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980400	61 00/20 62	246,036.13
32	BLK 08 LOT 28 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980393	35 00/20 62	173,254 47
33	BLK 46 LOT 04 PH1A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980794	35 00/20 62	169,837 16
34	BLK 34 LOT 16 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980402	58 50/20 62	240,288 64
35	BLK 02 LOT 08 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980307	35 00/20 62	190,450 00
36	BLK 34 LOT 27 PH4 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980411	35 00/20 62	171,797 82
37	BLK 28 LOT 22 PH 5 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1001925	35 00/20 62	176 653 60
38	BLK 31 LOT 46 PH 4 CARISSA HOMES BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036911	35 00/20 62	189,750 00
39	BLK 163 LOT 04 PH 7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036914	33 00/18 00	184,656 48
40	BLK 72 LOT 06 CARISSA HOMES PH 2 BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036909	35 00/20 62	175,809 80
41	BLK 40 LOT 28 CARISSA HOMES TANZA P6 BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1035481	33 00/18 00	180,430 97
42	BLK 40 LOT 11 CARISSA HOMES TANZA P6 BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1035482	33 00/18 00	191,938 71
43	BLK 42 LOT 10 CH TANZA P3B BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036550	35 00/20 62	175,264 91
44	BLK 08 LOT 10 CH-BERMUDA 2B BO BANLIC CABUYAO LAGUNA	T-520083	50 00/25 00	255,020 35
45	BLK 32 LOT 10 LA POBLACION PH IC BO. PARTIDA MUZON SJDM, BULACAN	T-347627(M)	42 00/22 00	223,260 78
46	BLK 10 LOT 04 LA POBLACION 3B BO PARTIDA, MUZON, SJDM, BULACAN	T-363763(M)	64 00/29 00	290,635 78
47	BLK 08 LOT 01 LA POBLACION IC PARTIDA MUZON SAN JOSE DEL MONTE BULACAN	T-285533(M)	38 00/22 00	226,955 93
48	BLK 72 LOT 17 CH LA TRINIDAD 3 BO QUINTANA TRECE MARTIRES CITY	T-62054	70 00/25 00	366,953 69
49	BLK 10 LOT 30 LANDMASS PARK SUBDIVISION BO BIGA TANZA CAVITE	T-1046016	40 00/21.60	257,558 32
50	BLK 06 LOT 37 NORTHRIDGE BO STO. CRISTO, SJDM, BULACAN	T-363704(M)	44 00/36 00	269 757 58
51	BLK 07 LOT 16 NORTHWINDS CITY 3B BRGY STO CRISTO SJDM BULACAN	T-272865(M)	79 00/25 00	399,499 60
52	BLK 22 LOT 09 NORTHWIND CITY 3B BO STO CRISTO SJDM BULACAN	T-413035(M)	67 00/25 00	395,899 60
53	BLK 23 LOT 33 SAN MARINO CENTRAL BO SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1001923	50 00/28 00	258,126 73
54	BLK 24 LOT 20 SAN MARINO CENTRAL BO SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048013	50 00/28 00	276,856 00
55	BLK 13 LOT 17 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1038913	35 00/20 62	202,560 85
56	BLK 19 LOT 20 PH 2 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1012158	35 00/20 62	208,064 41
57	BLK 14 LOT 30 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1012161	35 00/20 62	203,227 65
58	BLK 11 LOT 35 PH I SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1012159	35 00/20 62	219,603 04
59	BLK 06 LOT 38 PH I SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048017	35 00/20 62	204,562 16
60	BLK 01 LOT 07 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048012	35 00/20 62	195,222 77
61	BLK 04 LOT 08 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048014	35 00/20 62	204,562 15
62	BLK 09 LOT 30 SOLAR URBAN HOMES NORTH DEPARO RD ,BO BAGUMBONG CAL	C-344443	47 00/36 00	306,904 00
63	BLK 06 LOT 04 PH 2 STA CECILIA VILLAGE 2 BRGY JULUGAN TANZA CAVITE	T-1038912	82 00/00	248,050 00
64	BLK 04 LOT 02A SUNRISE VILLAGE I BRGY MARINIG CABUYAO LAGUNA	T-519127	94 00/00	162 808 00
65	BLK 30 LOT 22 TIERRA NEVADA I BO SAN FRANCISCO GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-987850	55 00/26 19	328,146 45
66	BLK 19 LOT 05 WILLOW BEND BRGY PINAGKUARTELAN PANDI BULACAN	T-303767(M)	37.00/18 00	192,870.72
67	BLK 15 LOT 31 WILLOW BEND BRGY PINAGKUARTELAN PANDI BULACAN	T-359635(M)	37 00/18 00	194,308 40
68	BLK 32 LOT 24 WOODBRIDGE BRGY POBLACION PANDI BULACAN	T-353568(M)	42 00/20 00	180,082 56
69	BLK 64 LOT 07 WOODBRIDGE BRGY POBLACION PANDI BULACAN	T-353069(M)	42 00/20 00	189,245 16
70	BLK 01 LOT 17/18 SEC 33 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-605194/95	107 60/20 16	309,509 60
71	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 34 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS I BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	605342	39 60/20 16	159,801 14
72	BLK 02 LOT 56/57 SEC 32 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS PH I BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVIT	T-604489/604490	79 20/20 16	249 627 22
73	BLK 04 LOT 15/17 SEC 35 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS I BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-615353/615355	83 00/20 16	250,075 84
74	BLK 01 LOT 03 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672316-A	38 50/20 12	265,681 57
75	BLK 01 LOT 100/101 SEC 10 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES PH I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA	T-674038/39	77 00/20 12	320,057.58
76	BLK 01 LOT 11 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672014-A	38 50/20.12	204,193 46
77	BLK 01 LOT 115 & 116 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-674054/53	84 00/20 12	342,125 09
78	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665898	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
79	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 08 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES III BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVI	T-732656	36 00/20 12	194 356 45
80	BLK 01 LOT 13/15 SEC 02 BELVEDERE TOWNE II SUBD BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVI	T-666567/69	77 00/20 12	329,710 82
81	BLK 01 LOT 14 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672917A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
82	BLK 01 LOT 15 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672918	38 50/20 12	212,621 07
83	BLK 01 LOT 26 & 28 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672020/31	77 00/20 12	339,315 20
84	BLK 01 LOT 30 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667024	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
85	BLK 01 LOT 36 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666790	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
86	BLK 01 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667033/031	77.00/20 12	333,433 38
87	BLK 01 LOT 46 & 47 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673084A/085A	77 00/20 12	321,265 99
88	BLK 01 LOT 86/87 ESC 10 BELVEDERE I SUBD. BRGY QUINTANA, TANZA CAVITE	T-674024/674025	77 00/20 12	319,046 92
89	BLK 01 LOT 92 & 93 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-674030-A/031A	77 00/20 12	321,265 99
90	BLK 02 LOT 01 & 02 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672945A/944A	80 50/20 12	331,695 99
91	BLK 02 LOT 02 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673642	38 50/20 12	221,025 80
92	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 02 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666602	38 50/20 12	205,554 23
93	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667042	38 50/20 12	203,198 31
94	BLK 02 LOT 09 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673649A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
95	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665939	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
96	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673484	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
97	BLK 02 LOT 17 SEC 01 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667352	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
98	BLK 02 LOT 21 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672084A	38 50/20 12	211,309 98
99	BLK 02 LOT 25 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665941	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
100	BLK 02 LOT 27 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665913	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
101	BLK 03 LOT 03 BELVEDERE IIA BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-822584	38 50/20 12	211,681.57
102	BLK 03 LOT 20 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673003-A	38 50/20 12	206,678 28
103	BLK 03 LOT 31/33 SEC 05 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES PH I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA C	671136/671134	77 00/20 12	336,118 41
104	BLK 03 LOT 35 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667109	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
105	BLK 03 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666872/874	77 00/20 12	332 809 37
106	BLK 04 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673682/84	75 00/20 12	333,355 20
107	BLK 04 LOT 08 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673685A	38 50/20 12	212,472 88
108	BLK 04 LOT 11 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673034-A	38 50/20 12	203,537 47
109	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667130	38 50/20 12	208,181 62
110	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671163	38 50/20 12	214 122 80
111	BLK 04 LOT 35 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666909	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
112	BLK 04 LOT 49 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732069	36 00/20 12	192 427 11
113	BLK 05 LOT 01 & 02 SEC 04 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670786/787	80 50/20 12	339,528 67
114	BLK 05 LOT 06 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667160	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
115	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667162	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
116	BLK 05 LOT 10 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666924	38 50/20 12	209,946 14
117	BLK 05 LOT 11 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673539A	38 50/20 12	202,702 02
118	BLK 05 LOT 23 & 25 SEC 02 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667502/504	77 00/20 12	323 664 27
119	BLK 05 LOT 26 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673091A	38 50/20 12	288,122 80
120	BLK 05 LOT 28 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732980	36 00/20 12	192 078 09
121	BLK 05 LOT 30 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672533A	38 50/20 12	211,099 86
122	BLK 05 LOT 32 SEC 02 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666731	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
123	BLK 05 LOT 33 SEC 02 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666732	39 00/20 12	213,171 57
124	BLK 05 LOT 33 SEC 03 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667789	38 50/20 12	200,081 17
125	BLK 05 LOT 36 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732997	36 00/20 12	193,988 03
126	BLK 05 LOT 43 & 44 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN. TRIAS C	T-733004/005	72 00/20 12	302,471 86
127	BLK 06 LOT 05 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666013	36 00/20 12	197,280 18
128	BLK 06 LOT 09 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666963	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
129	BLK 06 LOT 17 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671234	37 00/20 12	209,652 80
130	BLK 06 LOT 24 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666976	38 50/20 12	203,033 49
131	BLK 06 LOT 27 SEC 06 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732309	36 00/20 12	194,211 02
132	BLK 06 LOT 30 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672573A	38 50/20 12	208,039 19
133	BLK 07 LOT 04 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673147-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
134	BLK 07 LOT 08 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673151A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
135	BLK 07 LOT 08 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-733039	36 00/20 12	194,511 57
136	BLK 07 LOT 14 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673709A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
137	BLK 07 LOT 34 SEC 06 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN. TRIAS CAVITE	T-732416	36 00/20 12	192,902 17
138	BLK 08 LOT 01 & 03 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673579-A/581	80 50/20.12	331,695 99
139	BLK 08 LOT 15 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672638A	38 50/20 12	209,781 32
140	BLK 08 LOT 28 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673200-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
141	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673816A/814A	77.00/20 12	321,265 99
142	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666052	38 00/20 12	187,420 41
143	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673818-A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
144	BLK 09 LOT 21 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673233-A	38 50/20 12	205,465 60
145	BLK 09 LOT 27 & 29 SEC 04 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670972/74	77 50/20 12	335,510 18
146	BLK 09 LOT 28 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671306	38 50/20 12	207,920 69
147	BLK 10 LOT 03 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673255-A	38 50/20.12	214,122 80
148	BLK 10 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 04 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671010/08	80 00/20 12	359,093 48
149	BLK 10 LOT 18 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673853	38 50/20.12	210,584 54
150	BLK 11 LOT 01 & 03 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666077/75	72 00/20 12	306,365 09
151	BLK 11 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673301A/299A	77 00/20 12	321,265 99
152	BLK 11 LOT 13 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672270	38 50/20 12	189,492 18
153	BLK 11 LOT 14 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672308-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
154	BLK 11 LOT 15 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673878-A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
155	BLK 11 LOT 18 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673879-A	41 00/20 12	205,242 56
156	BLK 11 LOT 24 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672287-A	38 50/20 12	204,730 18
157	BLK 11 LOT 26 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672769-A	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
158	BLK 11 LOT 30 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672773-A	38 50/20 12	211,681.57
159	BLK 11 LOT 32 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672775-A	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
160	BLK 12 LOT 18 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666107	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
161	BLK 12 LOT 21 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672624-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
162	BLK 12 LOT 21 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673353-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
163	BLK 12 LOT 22 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673902-A	38 50/20 12	210,534 72
164	BLK 12 LOT 22/23 SEC 01 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CA	T-666111/666112	83 00/20 12	345,814 20
165	BLK 12 LOT 30 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672333	38 50/20 12	201,539 67
166	BLK 13 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672033A/831A	77 00/20 12	337,018 35
167	BLK 13 LOT 08 SEC 01 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666120	36 00/20 12	197,250 38
168	BLK 13 LOT 11 SEC 03 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670628	38 50/20 12	211,264 68
169	BLK 13 LOT 14 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666126	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
170	BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666127	36 00/20 12	197,449 15
171	BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673387A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
172	BLK 13 LOT 17 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666129	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
173	BLK 13 LOT 18 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673391-A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
174	BLK 13 LOT 21 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672844A	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
175	BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666135	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
176	BLK 13 LOT 28 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666140	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
177	BLK 13 LOT 31 SEC 03 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670648	38 50/20 12	209,807 38
178	BLK 13 LOT 35 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673407A	38 50/20.12	213,794 80
179	BLK 14 LOT 03 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673115A	38 50/20 12	211,468 80
180	BLK 14 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672871A/873A	77 00/20.12	330,272 00
181	BLK 14 LOT 11 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I SUBD BRGY QUINTANA, TANZA CAVITE	T-673423-A	38 50/20.12	203,954 92
182	BLK 14 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666157	36 00/20 12	206 344 80
183	BLK 14 LOT 35 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673447	38 50/20 12	205,525 32
184	BLK 15 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666105	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
185	BLK 15 LOT 14 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666107	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
186	BLK 15 LOT 16 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666109	36 00/20 12	204,231.57
187	BLK 15 LOT 40 & 42 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666225/223	72 00/20 12	312,164 18
188	BLK 16 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666227/229	84 00/20 12	340,231 59
189	BLK 18 LOT 03 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666304	46 00/20 12	225,142 02
190	BLK 20 LOT 17 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666324	36 00/20 12	199,387 31
191	BLK 21 LOT 28 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666369	36 00/20 12	197,449 15
192	BLK 23 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666427/429	72 00/20 12	319,625 51
193	BLK 23 LOT 19 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666444	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
194	BLK 24 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666461	36 00/20 12	198,522 59
195	BLK 24 LOT 17 & 18 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666466/467	68 00/20 12	361,900 64
196	BLK 25 LOT 06 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666473	36 00/20 12	192,708.11
197	BLK 25 LOT 08 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666475	36 00/20.12	206,672 80
198	BLK 26 LOT 12 & 10 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666489/491	72 00/20 12	324,415 20
199	BLK 27 LOT 03 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666507	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
200	BLK 27 LOT 22 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666526	40 00/20 12	218,592 00
201	BLK 01 LOT 18 SEC 10 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690993	35 00/20 12	174,150 57
202	BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691817	35 00/20.12	178,211 44
203	BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 1A SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688912	35 00/20 12	176,450 06
204	BLK 01 LOT 20 SEC 05 SUNNBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749753	35 00/20.12	177,497 81
205	BLK 02 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691829/831	75 00/20 12	299,173 35
206	BLK 02 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691832/830	75 00/20 12	303 665.15
207	BLK 02 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 06 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690479/690480	70 00/20 12	288,025 18
208	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691837	35 00/20.12	179,298 87
209	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 08 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690788	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
210	BLK 03 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 07 SUNNYBROOKE I BRY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690562/560	70 00/20 12	283,748 17
211	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 10 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691029/027	70 00/20 12	278,155 00
212	BLK 03 LOT 07 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749799	35 00/20.12	176,537 82
213	BLK 03 LOT 13 SEC 08 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690814	35 00/20 12	171,890 76
214	BLK 03 LOT 14 SEC 11 SUNNYBROOKE PH I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691344	35 00/20 12	172,791 29
215	BLK 04 LOT 05/07 SEC 04 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689981/689983	75 00/20 12	299 630 15
216	BLK 04 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 07 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690584/690582	75 00/20 12	298,368 01
217	BLK 04 LOT 13 SEC 14 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-692049	35 00/20 12	171,890 76
218	BLK 04 LOT 14 SEC 14 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-692050	35 00/20 12	176,214 99
219	BLK 04 LOT 19 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749839	35 00/20 12	180,794 08
220	BLK 05 LOT 02 SEC 08 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-750173	35 00/20 12	192,465 15
221	BLK 05 LOT 05 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690295	38 00/20.12	187,064 16
222	BLK 05 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689053/55	85 00/40 24	421,155 66
223	BLK 05 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689056/054	85 00/40 24	409,935 84
224	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 05 PH II SUNNYBROOKE BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749856	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
225	BLK 05 LOT 20 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749868	35 00/20 12	182 255 31
226	BLK 05 LOT 26 SEC 03 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689755	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
227	BLK 06 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 12 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691705/703	70 00/20 12	269,508 20
228	BLK 06 LOT 13 SEC 14 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-692099	35 00/20 12	206,255 31
229	BLK 06 LOT 17 SEC 03 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689777	35 00/20 12	183,860 60
230	BLK 07 LOT 05 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749909	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
231	BLK 07 LOT 11 SEC 13 PH I SUNNYBROOKE BRYG ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691925	35 00/20 12	171 890 76
232	BLK 07 LOT 15 SEC 12 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691732	35 00/20.12	178,398.34
233	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 12 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691736	35 00/20.12	186 898 48
234	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691933	35 00/20.12	206 255 31
235	BLK 08 LOT 06 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689110	35 00/20.12	189,356 38
236	BLK 08 LOT 18 SEC 07 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690657	35 00/20 12	182,801 95
237	BLK 08 LOT 05 SEC 04 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749708	35 00/20 12	181,618 15
238	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 04 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690127/25	75 00/20 12	298,081 45
239	BLK 09 LOT 10 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689129	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
240	BLK 09 LOT 10 SEC 03 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689860	35 00/20 12	180,887.17
241	BLK 09 LOT 16 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749976	35 00/20 12	177,523 30
242	BLK 09 LOT 30 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749990	35 00/20 12	175,849 68
243	BLK 10 LOT 20 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749219	35 00/20 12	182 255 31
244	BLK 11 LOT 19 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689180	35 00/20 12	182,801 95
245	BLK 11 LOT 21/23 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689182/689184	70 00/20 12	286,257 20
246	BLK 12 LOT 03 SEC 11 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691455	35 00/20 12	175,688 26
247	BLK 12 LOT 14 SEC 02 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689198	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
248	BLK 12 LOT 15 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688397	35 00/20 12	221,358 36
249	BLK 13 LOT 10 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE PH I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688425	35 00/20 12	176,450 06
250	BLK 13 LOT 27 SEC 10 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691277	35 00/20 12	170,080 71
251	BLK 14 LOT 26 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688474	35 00/20 12	189,135 42
252	BLK 14 LOT 28 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688476	35 00/20 12	184,394 52
253	BLK 15 LOT 14 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689271	35 00/20.12	169,087 24
254	BLK 15 LOT 19 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-688500	35 00/20 12	180,491.33
255	BLK 17 LOT 18 SEC 11 SUNNY BROOKE BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691550	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
256	BLK 17 LOT 28 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688575	35 00/20 12	178 594.97
257	BLK 18 LOT 18 SEC 02 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689332	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
258	BLK 19 LOT 25 SEC 02 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689368	35 00/20.12	172,198 60
259	BLK 22 LOT 11 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-748404	35 00/20.12	177,132 50
260	BLK 22 LOT 11 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689451	35 00/20 12	174,023 14
261	BLK 22 LOT 28 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689468	35 00/20 12	176 648 26
262	BLK 23 LOT 14 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688769	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
263	BLK 23 LOT 25 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688770	35 00/20 12	309,356 36
264	BLK 25 LOT 14 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688807	35 00/20 12	180,491 33
265	BLK 25 LOT 18 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688811	35 00/20 12	177,122 07
266	BLK 29 LOT 15 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688884	35 00/20 12	189,356 36
267	BLK 33 LOT 01 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE PH II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-748630	35 00/20.12	191,427 65

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Interested parties are required to secure copies of: (a) INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS and (b) BID FORMS from the office of the Acquired Asset Management, 11th Flr Pacific Center Bldg San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
2. Sealed proposals in triplicate shall be received at the Office of the Acquired Asset Management, 11th flr Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue Ortigas, Pasig City starting 8.00 a.m. not later than 2:00 p.m. immediately after which, the said proposals shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders.
3. Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT in CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER'S/ MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila, payable to the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) in an amount equivalent to at least TEN PERCENT (10%) of the total bid price.
4. Properties shall be sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from the HDMF.
5. All bidders are advised to visit/inspect the properties for bidding before posting their bid proposals.
6. If the bidder who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he/she BIDDED during and after the bidding, his/her deposit shall be FORFEITED and failure of bidding shall be declared.
7. All awards by the Bidding Committee shall be subject to the approval/ confirmation of the VP-NCR Housing Operations, North Sector / Manager – Acquired Asset Management, North Sector

HDMF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY THEREIN OR ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE FUND. THE DECISION OF THE FUND IS FINAL AND BINDING.

ACQUIRED ASSET MANAGEMENT Tel No: 634-8344 / 634-83-91 / 6375431

(PDI-Nov 28 29 & 30, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 5, MANILA

WILKIE N. YU,
Petitioner,

- versus -

Civil Case No. 03-106619
For: Declaration of Nullity of Marriage

SYLVIA Y. TABLADA,
Respondent,

x - x

SUMMONS

WHEREAS, on November 6, 2003, the Honorable AMALIA R. ANDRADE, Presiding Judge of this Court, issued an order in the above-entitled case, which reads as follows:

"Accordingly, and pursuant to Section 14, Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, let summons be served upon the respondent, SYLVIA Y. TABLADA, at her last known address and by publication twice in a newspaper of general circulation to be selected through a raffle pursuant to P.D. 1079."

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Sec. 14, Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure, respondent SYLVIA Y. TABLADA is hereby summoned and required to file with the Regional Trial Court of Manila, Branch 5 her Answer to the Petition for Annulment of Marriage filed against her by WILKIE N. YU within 30-days from the date of the last publication of this Summons, serving copy thereof upon the petitioner, C/O Atty. Rodrigo Y. Aranda, Rm. 900 9th Flr., National Life Insurance Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Upon failure on his part to do so as aforesaid, the herein petition shall be referred to the City Prosecutor of Manila for an investigation, to determine whether or not collusion exists between the parties, and to intervene for the State to see to it that the evidence submitted are not fabricated.

Let this Summons together with a copy of the petition be published twice at the expense of the Petitioner in PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER a newspaper of general circulation. Likewise, petitioner shall at his expense deposit a copy of this Summons as well as the petition, in the Central Post Office, postage pre-paid and by registered mail addressed to respondent SYLVIA Y. TABLADA at No. 1448 Kundiman Street, Sampaloc, Manila.

Manila, November 19, 2003.

JENNIFER DELA CRUZ-BUENDIA
Clerk of Court
BY:
IRENE R. BIEN
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI – Nov. 28 & Dec. 5 & 12, 2003)

Exportbank Plaza now an I.T. ecozone!

EXPORTBANK Plaza, headquarters of Export and Industry Bank, is now an accredited Information Technology (IT) Zone of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA). Exportbank Plaza Condominium Corporation director/ treasurer Benjamin P. Castillo and PEZA director general Lilia de Lima signed the registration agreement on November 03, 2003 at PEZA headquarters in Roxas Boulevard, Metro Manila.

PEZA is a government corporation attached to the Department of Trade and Industry tasked with developing world-class, environment-friendly economic zones (ecozones) all over the country that provide attractive locations for foreign investments.

Incentives for enterprises located in an ecozone include simplified import and export procedures; exemption from corporate income tax for four years and the option to pay a special 5% tax on gross income in lieu of all national and local taxes; exemptions from duties and taxes on imported capital equipment, spare parts, supplies and raw materials; domestic sales allowance equivalent to 30% of total sales; employment of foreign nationals; and permanent resident status for foreign investors and immediate family members.

As an I.T. Zone, Exportbank Plaza offers a high-speed fiber-optic telecommunication backbone and high-speed international gateway facility or wide-area network (WAN); clean, uninterruptible power supply; and computer security and building monitoring and maintenance systems (e.g. computer firewalls, encryption technology, fluctuation controls, etc). Exportbank Plaza is one of the only four buildings recognized as PEZA IT Zones in Makati City.

NHA-NORTHERN SAMAR HOUSING PROJECTS. National Housing Authority (NHA) Assistant General Manager Joseph Peter Sison (seated, second from left) sign with Northern Samar Governor Raul Daza (seated, third from left) the memorandum of agreement for the development of NHA-Northern Samar Housing Projects. The two-phased projects, to benefit 687 homeless residents in the province, will be developed in Brgy. Galutan, Catarman and Brgy. Poblacion, San Isidro, Northern Samar. Signing as witnesses are NHA Visayas Management Office Team Head Arthur Cabantac (left) and Chief of Staff of the Office of the Governor Herbert Esponilla (extreme right). Also in photo are (standing, from left) NHA Legal Department Manager Mario Escober, Northern Samar Provincial Coordinator Nicanor Cardenas, NHA Deputy Area Management Officer for the Visayas Virgilio Dacalos, and NHA Leyte-Samar Projects Manager Rizalde Mediavillo.

Servant leadership talk at AIM

DR. Federico M. Macaranas, dean of Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Center for Development Management (CDM) is scheduled to talk on the topic "Exploring the Heart of Servant Leadership" during the three-day multi-sectoral leadership conference slated on December 1-3 at the AIM Conference Center in Makati City.

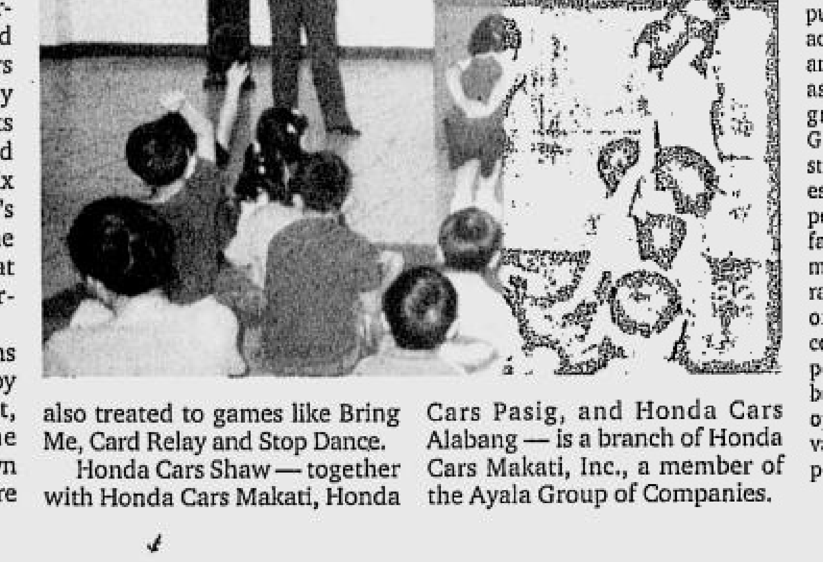
The three-day conference with the theme "Building a Community of Leaders and Organizations Through Good Governance" is being organized by the International Movement of Development Managers (IMDM), a professional network composed of graduates of the AIM Master in Development Management program.

For conference details, please contact the IMDM secretariat at 753-2006.

Child vehicular safety at Honda Cars Shaw

HONDA Cars Shaw recently hosted an educational tour for The Learning Connection (Preparatory School) as part of the school's theme of the month, "Transportation". The group was given a tour around the dealership and the kids were oriented on the basic features of the cars displayed at the showroom by the Sales staff. The little guests had fun riding the new City and were very much excited that six of them could sit inside the car's very spacious trunk. A stop at the repair area gave the tots a look at the various car services performed from a distance.

Short lessons on traffic signs and child safety on the road, led by Marketing Services Assistant, Carmen Cabanatan, were the highlights of the activity as shown in photo above. The children were



also treated to games like Bring Me, Card Relay and Stop Dance.

Honda Cars Shaw — together with Honda Cars Makati, Honda Cars Pasig, and Honda Cars Alabang — is a branch of Honda Cars Makati, Inc., a member of the Ayala Group of Companies.

JCCI acquires Genesys Integrated Assessment Software

JOHN Clements Consultants Inc. recently acquired GENeSYS Integrated Assessment Software, an assessment tool which has been developed by Psytech International, a leading test publisher in United Kingdom. With this acquisition, JCCI set-up an assessment and development center to cater to the assessment needs of their loyal and growing clientele base. By using GENeSYS which contains more than 20 standardized measures of ability, interests, values and motivation as well as personality, assessment can be made faster, accurate and reliable. In fact many of these measures are comparable to existing and perhaps popular ones already being used by various companies. Thus whether testing for positions from the shop floor to the boardroom or assessing career development options, GENeSYS offers the validity and reliability which are expected from quality assessment tools.

With the set-up of JCCI Assessment and Development Center, GENeSYS Integrated Assessment Software will be primarily used as their decision support tool coupled with structured and competency based interviewing techniques. For their corporate clients, John Clements Consultants Ins. Assessment and Development Center will provide assistance in making the best selection decisions using computer-aided tools and competence based interviewing techniques. And for individuals, they can come and visit JCCI anytime if they want to determine their capabilities, interests, preferences and career development programs so as they can move towards greater personal career success.

John Clements Assessment and Development Center offers reliable and friendly service. For further inquiries, please do not hesitate to call these telephone numbers 884-1227 or 884-1229. Our office is located at 12B LKG Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati, Metro Manila.

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(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

DAMASO LAZARETO y RODRIGUEZ

"A Dear husband and loving father"

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 26, 2003 at the age of 74.

His loving wife **CLOTY**; children and children-in-law **NIKKI, MON** and **DOTY**; grandchildren **ENRICO** and **TE'A**; loving brother **MAX**; and relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, New Manila, Q.C.

Interment will be announced later.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Corazon Cruz Santos

who passed away on 24 October 2003

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who in various ways condoled with, contributed materially and comforted us in our time of bereavement.

DEATH NOTICE

HELEN P. RELLOSA

(April 28, 1953 - November 19, 2003)

Joined our Creator at the age of 50.

Interment will be on November 29, 2003, 10:00 a.m. Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

"For God so loved the world, that He gave us His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

JOSE U. SEGUI

Peacefully joined his Lord on November 26, 2003 at the age of 77.

His wife **Mory**; children & children-in-law **Joey & Sylvia, Lito, Nenette & Jojo, Oji & Maribeth, & Melissa**; grandchildren **Gretchen, Keisha, Patrick, Bianca, Carmela, Christian, Kathrynn, Miguel & Kirsten** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. John Bosco Parish Funeral Chapel (Charity Chapel), Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 30, 2003, after the 10 a.m. Mass at the Manila North Cemetery.

OUR BELOVED

DIVINA SANTOS PARALA

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 26, 2003 at the age of 73.

Her loving husband **DIOSDADO**; loving children **DINA** and **MANNY, DONA** and **FELIX, DARIUS** and **PINKY**; grandchildren **DAYDAY** and **PATRICK**; brothers and sisters-in-law and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains now lie in state at ST. JEROME EMILIANI and ST. SUSANA PARISH, Commerce Avenue, Ayala Alabang Muntinlupa.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 30, 2003 at Everest Hills Memorial Park, Susana Heights, Muntinlupa City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

NEMESIA Y. MATEO

December 19, 1909 – November 28, 2002

On the First Anniversary of her new life in God

We, husband **Magno F. Mateo Sr.** (†); children and in-laws **Louie, Cora, Glo** and **Ted, Jun** and **Lani, Joe** and **Minerva, Dave** and **Tina, Carmen** and **Nonoy, Ding** and **Bingbing, Bong** and **Edith**; grandchildren and great grandchildren thank all who accompanied us and request the readers to pray for her eternal peace.

From the family of

Hon. Aguedo F. Agbayani

December 16, 1919 – October 23, 2003

Board of Trustees, GSIS (1995-1998)
Provincial Governor (1972-1986) (1992-1995)
Congressman, 1st District of Pangasinan (1957-1971)

We convey our deepest gratitude to all those who offered masses, prayers and kind words, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, and grieved with the family and gave solace and comfort in our bereavement.

The family will treasure your love for Aguedo and in his memory, will carry on his work and legacy of service to our fellowmen.

CAMILLE S. ILUSTRE

March 18, 1987 - November 26, 2003

Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 16.

Her parents **Emon** and **Lois Ilustre**; brothers **Javier** and **Martin**; grandmothers **Rudi L. Santiago** and **Dety P. Ilustre**; aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Faith Chapel, Don Bosco Church, Makati City.

Interment will be on November 30, 2003 at the Manila South Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Lourdes Gonzalez Martinez

of Looc, Romblon

*Peacefully joined her Creator and her husband, **Amando Martinez Sr.**, on November 25 at the age of 95.*

She is survived by her children and children-in-law **Linda** and **Roland Bolisay, Amando Jr.** and **Virginia, Dr. Guillermo** and **Glenda, Cesar** and **Agnes, Divina** and **Gerry Berenguer**; brother **Inocencio** and sisters **Luz** and **Sol**; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2003 at 2 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park.

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In Loving Memory of

GENARO R. LAZARO

Bocaue, Bulacan

who died in the Grace of our Lord on November 26, 2003.

His loving wife

GLORIA Y. LAZARO

and his children **Gilbert, Gilmore, Gilfred, Guia, Gilda** and **Gwen**; sisters **Catalina** and **Lucia**; brother **Marcelo**; sons- and daughters-in-law and grandchildren join their relatives and friends in requesting readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sto. Niño Academy, Biñang 2nd, Bocaue, Bulacan. Interment will be on Saturday, November 29, 2003 at 4:30 in the afternoon at the Garden of Peace Memorial Park, Bagumbayan, Bocaue, Bulacan, following the celebration of the Holy Mass at 4:00 in the afternoon.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

AUREA A. LAUENGCO

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 25, 2003.

In loving memories of her brothers, sisters, in-laws, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and special friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 29, 2003 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque at 10:00 a.m.

Mass will be held at 8:00 a.m. at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

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5 THE GRUDGE
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7 MASTER & COMMANDER
8 LOONEY TUNES

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4 CHAVIT SINGSON
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7 MR. SUAVE
8 LOONEY TUNES

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2 COLD CREEK MANOR
3 SCARY MOVIE 3
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7 AKO, IKAW, SIYA
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS

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4 CHAVIT SINGSON
5 WRONG TURN
6 MR. SUAVE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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3 CHAVIT SINGSON
4 MR. SUAVE

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2 MR. SUAVE
3 CHAVIT SINGSON
4 MASTER & COMMANDER

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2 MR. SUAVE
3 CHAVIT SINGSON
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2 CHAVIT SINGSON
3 MASTER & COMMANDER
4 AKO, IKAW, SIYA
5 SCARY MOVIE 3
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7 LOONEY TUNES
8 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
9 COLD CREEK MANOR
10 WRONG TURN

SM SOUTHMALL
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1 COLD CREEK MANOR
2 SCARY MOVIE 3
3 LOONEY TUNES
4 THE GRUDGE
5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
6 ZHOU YU'S TRAIN
7 CHAVIT SINGSON
8 MASTER & COMMANDER
9 MR. SUAVE
10 AKO, IKAW, SIYA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9359745

1 ZHOU YU'S TRAIN
2 AKO, IKAW, SIYA
3 MASTER & COMMANDER
4 COLD CREEK MANOR
5 LOONEY TUNES
6 CHAVIT SINGSON
7 CHAVIT SINGSON
8 MR. SUAVE
9 SCARY MOVIE 3
10 SEX SCANDAL
11 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
12 THE WISHER

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3 MR. SUAVE
4 CHAVIT SINGSON
5 THE SUSPECT
6 MASTER & COMMANDER

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COLD CREEK MANOR
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:20 LFS/1:40 LMF/3:40 END

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3 MASTER AND COMMANDER 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:00
4 COLD CREEK MANOR 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
5 LOONEY TUNES 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
6 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:50, 1:35, 5:20, 7:05, 9:50
7 AKO IKAW SIYA 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
8 MR. SUAVE 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
9 CHAVIT SINGSON STORY 12:20, 4:40, 9:00, 12:50
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4 THE GRUDGE - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 MR. SUAVE - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
6 LOONEY TUNES - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 COLD CREEK MANOR - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50

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3 COLD CREEK MANOR
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6 SCARY MOVIE 3
7 ZHOU YU'S TRAIN
8 MASTER AND COMMANDER

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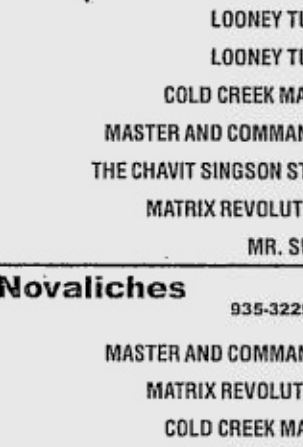

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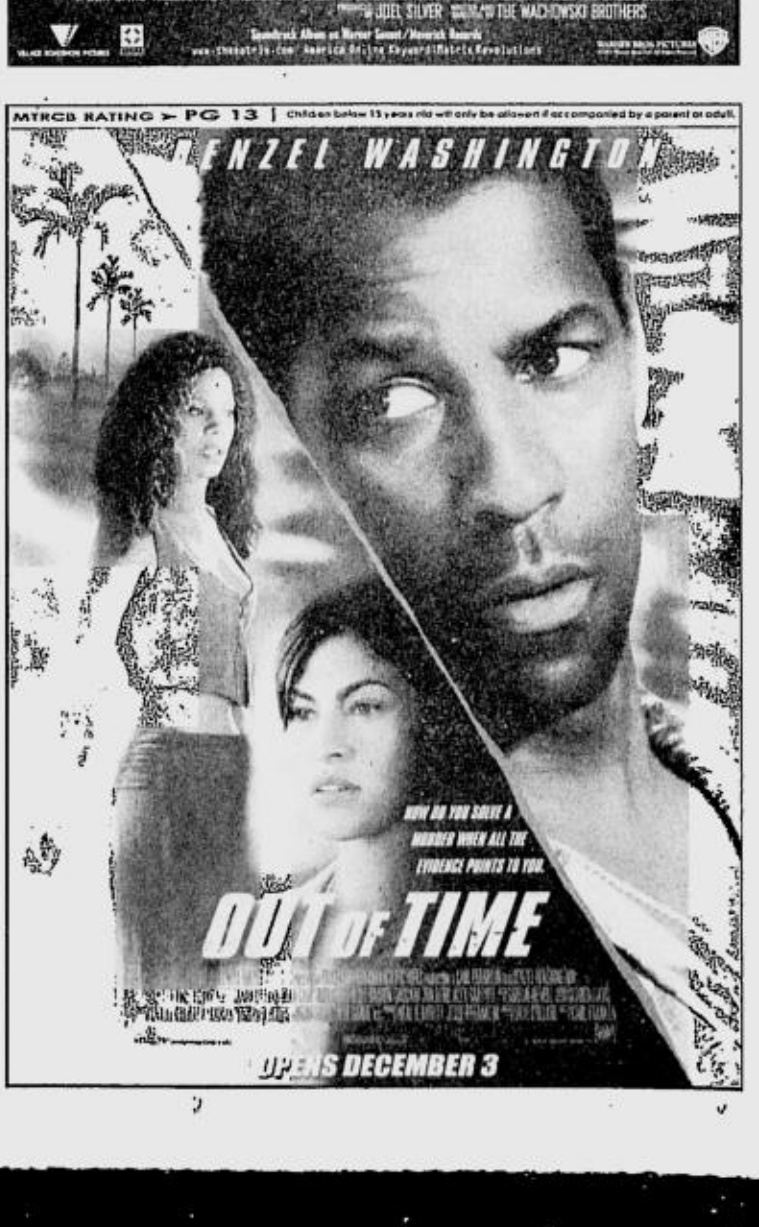

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TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	AKO, IKAW O SIYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

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B	AKO, IKAW, SIYA
C	

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CINEMA-2	AKO, IKAW O SIYA
CINEMA-3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MR SUAVE
CINEMA-6	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-7	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-8	CHAVIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	COLD CREEK MANOR
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	CHAVIT
CINEMA-15	MR SUAVE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	MR SUAVE
CINEMA-1	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-2	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-4	AMERICAN PSYCHO

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(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

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Ali 1	MR. SUAVE
Ali 2	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
Ali 3	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
Ali 4	LOONEY TUNES
Ali 5	MASTER AND COMMANDER
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Ali 7	AKO, IKAW, O SIYA

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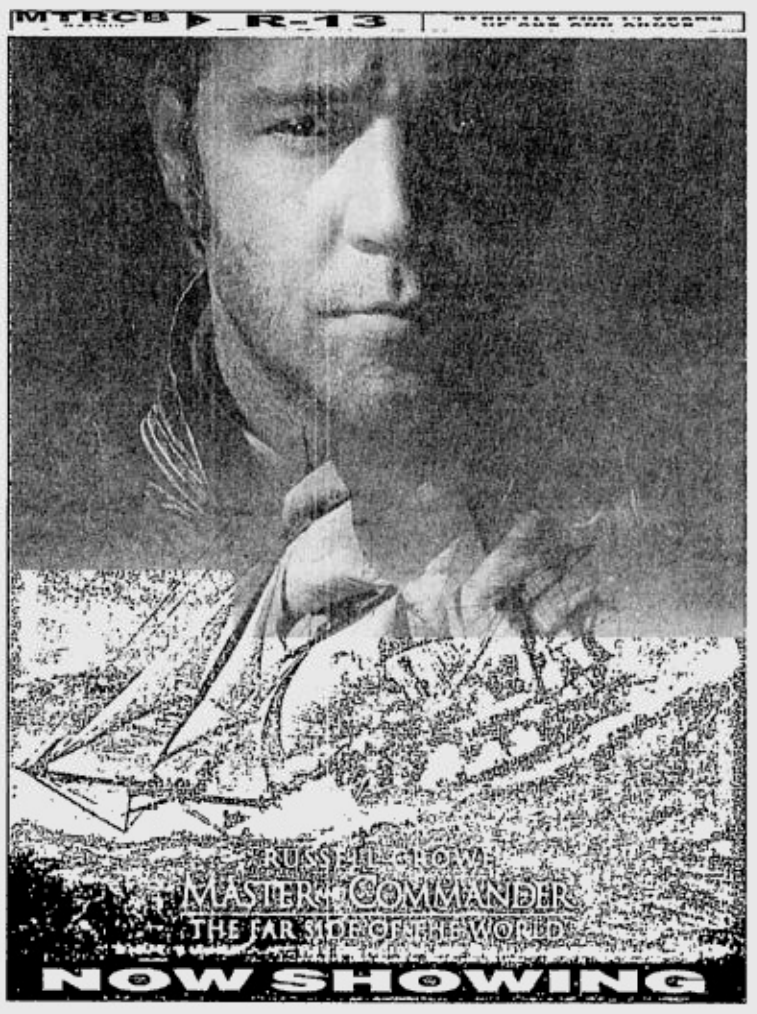

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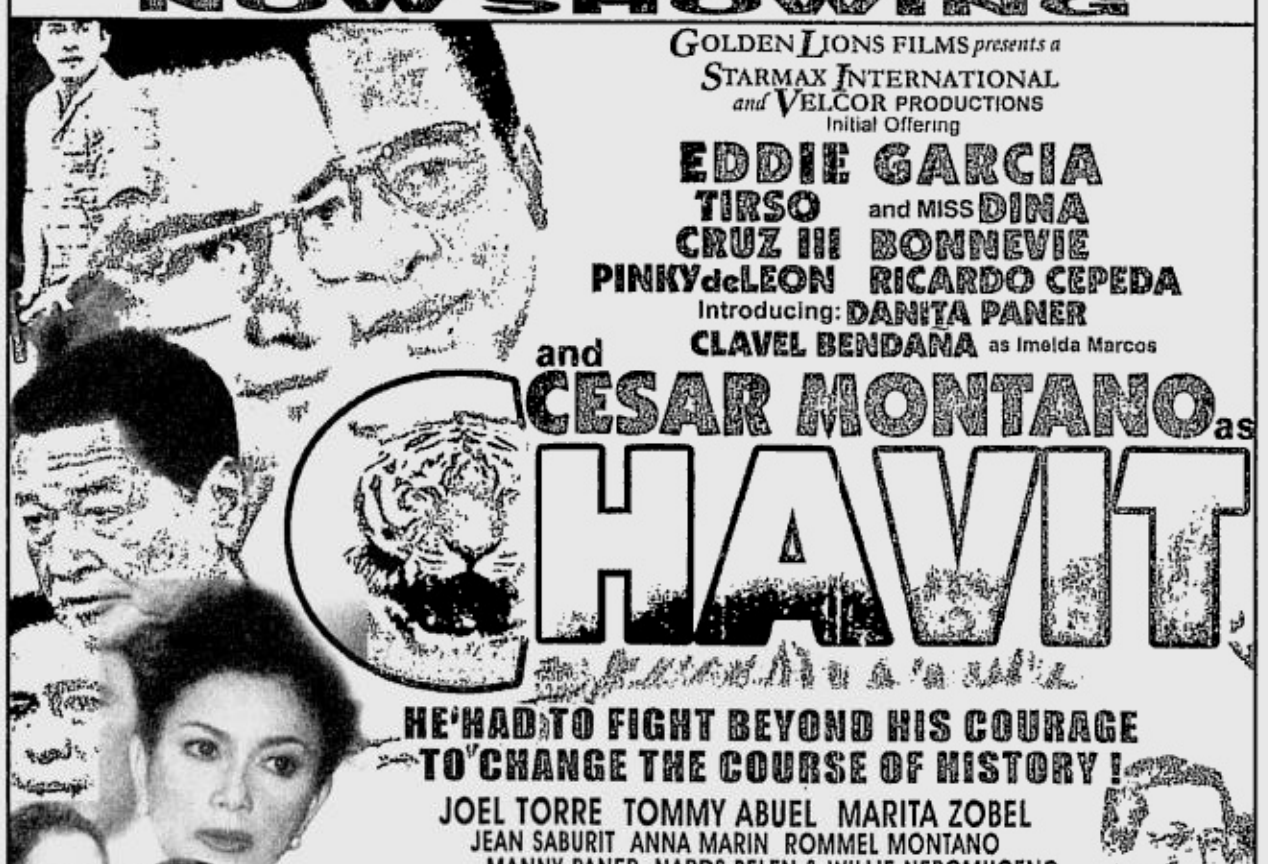

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1 LOONEY TUNES	1 LOONEY TUNES	Art Film 1 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:40, 2:45, 4:50, 6:55, 9:00	THX 1 SCARY MOVIE 3 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00	THX 1 LOONEY TUNES
2 CHAVIT	2 SCARY MOVIE 3		THX 2 LOONEY TUNES 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00	2 SCARY MOVIE 3
3 THE GRUDGE	THX 3 MASTER & COMMANDER 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00	2 THE GRUDGE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25	3 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05, 11:30	3 MASTER & COMMANDER
4 MR. SUAVE	4 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN		4 COLD CREEK MANOR 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00	4 LOONEY TUNES
	5 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 28, 29, 9PM	5 MASTER & COMMANDER	5 COLD CREEK MANOR
	6 THE GRUDGE			
	7 COLD CREEK MANOR			

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3 (DTS)	LOONEY TUNES
4 (GOLD-DOLBY EX)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
5 (GOLD-DOLBY EX)	LOONEY TUNES
6 (GOLD-SDDS)	MASTER & COMMANDER
7 (GOLD-DOLBY EX)	SCARY MOVIE-3
8	MR. SUAVE
9	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
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1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE
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1	MR. SUAVE
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3	SCARY MOVIE-3
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2	SEX SCANDAL

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2	
3	

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1	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
2	MR. SUAVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

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1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
6	MR. SUAVE
7 (DTS)	LOONEY TUNES
8 (SDDS)	COLD CREEK MANOR
9 (DOLBY)	TRAIN

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
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2	MR. SUAVE
3	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
4 (SDDS)	LOONEY TUNES
5	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
6 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
7 (DTS)	SCARY MOVIE-3
8	TRAIN
9	SEX SCANDAL

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2	MASTER & COMMANDER
3	LOONEY TUNES
4	MR. SUAVE
5	AKO, IKAW, SIYA

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2	RESERVE

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2	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY

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1	MR. SUAVE
2	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
3 (SDDS)	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES: BACK IN ACTION
5 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
6	SCARY MOVIE 3
7	AKO, IKAW, O SIYA

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1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Cinema 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
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1	LOONEY TUNES
2	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
3 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	LOONEY TUNES
2 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY)	WRONG TURN
4	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	MR. SUAVE
2 (DOLBY)	WRONG TURN
3 (DTS)	LOONEY TUNES
4	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	THE WISHER
2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	MR. SUAVE
2	WISHER
3 (DOLBY)	UNDERWORLD
4 (DTS)	UP TOWN GIRL

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	
2 (DTS)	
3	

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
2	SEX SCANDAL
3 (DTS)	MR. SUAVE
4	PILYA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	MASTER & COMMANDER
2	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
3 (DTS)	LOONEY TUNES
4	WRONG TURN
5	MR. SUAVE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MR. SUAVE
2	LOONEY TUNES
3	

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	LOONEY TUNES
2	MR. SUAVE
3	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	UNDERWORLD
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	MATRIX REVOLUTION
4	MR SUAVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Emperor
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1	SEX SCANDAL
2	MR. SUAVE
3	

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	SEX SCANDAL
2	LOONEY TUNES
3	MASTER & COMMANDER
4	MR SUAVE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	LOONEY TUNES
2	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
3 (DOLBY)	THE PHONE
4	

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
2	MR. SUAVE
3 (DOLBY)	WRONG TURN
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NO LABELS

DTI cracks down on footwear firms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry has threatened to slap stiff sanctions on footwear manufacturers caught selling their products without the proper labels.

This came after Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II recently made the rounds of various retail outlets and found that a number of consumer products, mostly footwear, were being sold without the proper labels.

Possible sanctions include a fine of between P200 and P5,000 and imprisonment of between one month and one year.

"Consumers should also be vigilant and report to the DTI those that sell shoes without the proper markings," Roxas said in a statement.

The DTI said footwear firms are required under the Philippine National Standard and Consumer Act of the Philippines to put labels on their products.

The labels should show the stock number or code, manufacturer's name, manufacturing site and the materials used.

The DTI said the said labels were necessary to inform the consumers about the products' quality and content, allowing them to compare different footwear before making a purchase.

The proper labels would also protect the local footwear manufacturing industry against the surge of imports of unmarked footwear from China.

The Bureau of Product Standards, an attached agency of the DTI, is tasked to monitor compliance of manufacturers with specified quality standards.

The BPS said it was intensifying its efforts to force manufacturers to comply with its minimum labeling requirements.

Roxas also said he has also instructed the DTI's Consumer Welfare Group to look into the compliance of footwear manufacturers with the government's labeling requirements.

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

CREATES PASSIVE THINKERS

'Honey, the kids are watching too much TV'

By Vincent Cabreza, *PDI*
Northern Luzon Bureau
and Margie Q. Espino

BAGUIO CITY—Stand-up comic Rex Navarette on Saturday talked about the Filipino family's devotion to the television, unwittingly supporting the television industry's insights into the crisis in child-friendly programming.

Navarette's joke during the INQUIRER-sponsored luncheon for delegates to the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress here detailed how Filipinos often cross in front of their television sets, where the household's single couch or bench faces.

He said Filipino couch potatoes tolerate this impropriety because, on the surface, culture allows it. They are content to sit in front of the TV, regardless of any distraction, he said.

This is the "reality" that Emily Abrera, chair of McCann-Erickson Philippines, the largest ad agency in the country, wants to change.

In her lecture on ratings and responsible TV programming during the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress, Abrera criticized the networks for their inability to restrict adult material from primetime fare, including noontime variety shows.

There are two reasons, she said, why everyone should be worried about television today. "One is that kids watch too much of it. And two, adults are finally noticing what the kids are watching," Abrera told members of the advertising industry.

Why be worried

Abrera pointed out that with the increasing number of dual working parents, about 66 in Metro Manila, kids spend more time watching television making it a surrogate parent.

Abrera kidded that nowhere in Philippine history has the term "boob tube" applied to television than now, judging by the number of shows that show that particular part of the female anatomy.

She said this kind of programming goes on despite studies and surveys proving that Filipino children spend more hours in front of the TV. These surveys reveal that children are now hooked on adult-oriented soap operas.

Lacks critical thinking

The result is that children nowadays lack critical thinking, judgment and are influenced by what they see. Abrera cited that studies show "excessive TV viewing at a young age become passive thinkers who are dependents on external sources. They have shortened attention span and experience increased irritability and aggression. Because of too much TV, they are not able to adjust socially and they have no reading habits. It's very frightening."

EMILY Abrera: Because of too much TV they are not able to adjust socially and they have no reading habits. It's very frightening.

Executives from the two top TV stations were the reactors.

Cory Vidanes, ABS-CBN senior vice president for television production, delivered a well-prepared talk that, in effect, said ABS-CBN is doing its part in producing educational shows like Sineskwela, Hirayamanawari, Mathtinik. Other sectors must do their bit.

"TV has been the whipping boy for youth problems. Is it because we have the widest reach? We have become the de facto yaya. The Filipino mass audience knows what he wants," she said.

A vice president of one of today's biggest advertisers pointed out that ABS' stance is too inflexible. "In effect what they are saying is they are already doing their part. They are saying they are giving the audience what they want. But should it not be the other way around—give the audience what they should have."

Vidanes suggested that sponsors or advertisers could support a mandatory programming block time, which would compel all television stations to broadcast at prescribed hours specially designed programs for children between two and 12 years old.

Practicality

Practicality, Vidanes said, must reign in addressing the issues confronting the broadcasting industry.

The "one reality" critics cannot ignore, Vidanes said, is that the average Filipino's most accessible luxury is still television, "and networks cannot dictate what programs he will watch after a hard

HONEY/ B2-2

Ad congress asks firms to finance campaigns that promote values

By Vincent Cabreza and Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The 18th Philippine Advertising Congress on its closing session on Saturday resolved to compel businesses to finance values advocacy advertisements and commercials next year.

The move was seen as the answer to President Macapagal Arroyo's complaint that media continue to sell a negative Filipino image.

The President's keynote speech on Thursday discussed media's overwhelming power over the country, which, she noted, exceeded the authority of any president.

Campaigns and Grey Public Relations Inc. head Bong Osorio, who facilitated a workshop on commercial advocacies, said local businesses have discovered the profitability of advocacies in the 21st century. He said industry-led causes gave a measure of credibility to marketed products.

But he stressed that the advocacies that advertising and corporate industries would champion should be sustained to their logical conclusions.

"You (advertising industry and the media) are so powerful. Not only do you influence confidence, you also influence the pace of our economy. You are more powerful than we have imagined and in a way, you are even more powerful than any presidency," Ms Macapagal said in her keynote speech.

"The media are our town plaza of the 20th century. The test of social acceptance used to be, 'Can we defend it in Plaza Miranda?' Today you (the media) are our Plaza Miranda."

It is in acknowledging this power that the media and advertising industries should consider national unification as an honorable solution to the political crises," she said.

Although the ad congress made no references to the President's complaint, Osorio said delegates proposed in a pre-congress workshop that the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), with budgets exceeding P500 million, will be required to develop a campaign promoting values formation or nation building every two years.

He said the initiative would require the confirmation of the Advertising Board of the Philippines, which controls all matters on commercial advertising.

To implement this idea, the board will convince companies to allocate 5 to 10 percent of their annual advertising budgets for advocacy communications, he said.

"Small and medium-sized companies will also be encouraged to participate and make donations based on their own logistic capabilities," he said.

The generated resources, he added, will be pooled together to provide "logistical muscle to this initiative."

There is money in advocacy, Osorio stressed, because advertising campaigns that fight for a cause have been known to generate consumer loyalty.

ADBOARD booth at the 18th Philippine Advertising Congress at the CAP-John Hay Convention Center. TOOTS SOBERANO

He said case studies reveal that consumers "feel better" buying products that are identified with a social or political advocacy.

The advocacy should cloak participating firms with "credibility and a good reputation," and would enhance the product's recognition factor, he said.

Yoly Ong, founder and chief executive officer of Campaigns and Grey, told the delegates on Friday that advocacy or cause programs have become a standard and widely accepted business practice.

Ong advised the firms to concentrate on advocacy campaigns of national import like the political maturity or immaturity of Filipinos or "big ideas" like the environment, AIDS, drugs, sports and family values.

"Corporate social responsibility has come of age. Consumers will continue to demand ethical alternatives. Great value can be added to a brand by building corporate image based on integrity, honesty and positive actions towards solutions of societal problems," she said.

Osorio said delegates had recommended the creation of a board task force that would lead the advocacy initiatives.

"Once the required funding is put in place, the board can act as a client or a brand manager, and appoint an ad agency and NGO or foundation-partners to steer the program under its supervision," he said.

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Doing bank transactions 24/7

ONE service that the United Coconut Planters Bank pioneered in the Philippine banking industry is the self-service banking concept.

Aptly termed UCPB Self Service Banking Center, or SSBC, the new offering is a high-tech infusion of products that provide the basic services clients look for in banks: deposits and withdrawals; account information like balance inquiry, bank statements, other bank products; transferring of funds and bills payment.

"After analyzing the reasons why people go to banks, we also found out that banking hours, which is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., is oftentimes insufficient, especially for those who have day jobs and cannot drop by the bank during work hours. With our SSBC, our clients can do practically any bank transaction 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said UCPB operations group co-officer in charge Daniel Yu.

A UCPB SSBC has three main features: a regular automated teller machine (ATM) that can be used to withdraw cash; another UCPB innovation, an ATM Plus, which can be used for withdrawals, deposits (real-time crediting) and fund transfer; and an Internet kiosk for online banking, bills payment and shopping.

Immediate deposits

The beauty of our ATM Plus is that clients cash deposits are immediately credited to their accounts. A lot of existing ATMs have the envelope deposit facility.

"It's safe but it takes time before it can be credited to the account since the envelope has to be opened by a teller the day after the deposit is made," Yu explained.

He added that clients are usually concerned with whether the amount that will be credited to their account is the same as what they deposited, and how fast it can be credited.

Fortunately, Yu and colleagues found out three years ago that a machine in Germany (by Wincor-Nixdorf, a subsidiary of Siemens) could accept large amount deposits and credit this to an account almost instantaneously. Right away, UCPB closed a deal for two machines initially and had these calibrated to Philippine currency.

"Our ATM Plus is capable of accepting all bills but we limited it to accept only P1,000, P500 and P100 bills. Bills in lower denominations tend to get used more, be soiled, folded and even have tape. The ATM Plus sort function is very sensitive and can detect these. This function doubles as protecting the bank from counterfeit," said Yu.

Another function of the ATM Plus is it can accept larger capacity of bills (up to 400 bills). The machine will sort the deposit according to denomination, count it and display the total amount (sans rejected bills) before finalizing the transaction. Likewise, the machine can also dispense cash like ordinary ATMs and recycle the money.

"For example, the machine runs out of cash to dispense for withdrawals. Somebody deposits say P60,000. At our option, we can make that P60,000 available to the next person who needs to withdraw cash. Of course, the amount would have already been credited to the depositors account. My point being, the ATM Plus is practically maintenance-free; chances of it going offline to inconvenience our clients will be nil to none."

Yu also said that the ATM Plus comes in handy especially towards the end of the working day when people would come to large amounts that they do not want to risk losing by lugging around. UCPB clients can just deposit it at either SSBC in Makati head office or the one at the Shangri-La mall and have it credited right away to his account.

Hassle-free banking

UCPB SSBCs ATMs, on the other hand, are no ordinary machines either. These are high-speed machines that can show third party ads on the idle screen, an added value for UCPB clients and partners.

We found out that about 80 percent of those who withdraw from ATMs need the cash to spend. The ads are a great way to address a captured audience. The ads can also be printed at the back of receipts, which can also be used in advertisers promotions.

According to Yu, UCPB ATMs are located in well-lit areas, equipped with cameras and sensors that alert the head office when a machine is forced open. Some ATMs record pictures as a safety measure.

"But there are other elements of security that we have no control over. Such as withdrawals during wee hours of the night where, even though well-lit, the areas where ATM kiosks are located have become deserted. We also remind our clients to secure their personal identification numbers (PIN) for their cards. Although they each have what we call electronic fingerprinting that makes each one unique, we cannot control money loss if clients give their PIN away carelessly or needlessly."

As for the Internet facility in the UCPB SSBC, these are set so clients can do online bills payment, products inquiry or even online shopping. This is set to the UCPB homepage and has a time limit per user. After time allotted has run out, the user is redirected to the idle page.

We feel that self-service banking will be the trend in the future. This is not to say that we will do away with our tellers. UCPB is known for its excellent service; we are committed to this. Nevertheless, if transaction can be done faster via machine, then we'll do it. We're not thinking of cost cutting; we're thinking about extending faster and better service 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

India's economy looks bright but . . .

FIROZABAD, India—Things are looking up in India. Growth will top 7 percent this year, foreign exchange reserves are a record $93 billion and the country has grabbed a quarter of the fast-growing market for outsourced service jobs.

Yet here in Firozabad, a run-down glass-making town 240 km (150 miles) south of New Delhi, India looks anything but the budding economic giant that has prompted investors to drive the key Bombay share index up 42 percent so far this year.

To be sure, plenty of road-building is going on. Residents say the air is much cleaner than it was just a few years ago.

The town's factories will be fueled from next March by liquefied natural gas from Qatar. And a shiny new motorcycle showroom is a pointer to the growing spending power of Indian consumers.

"The economy is good. You see general prosperity here," said District Magistrate Anoop Aggarwal, a top official in this town of about 500,000 people in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

But you also see reminders that, behind the modern face of Delhi's swank shopping malls and Bangalore's information technology labs, India remains a country of desperate needs.

Car carcasses wallowing in large pools of stagnant water and pigs rooting through piles of rotting garbage on the main road testify to rudimentary public services, while a visit to Om Glass Works is like touring an industrial museum.

In a town that is about 90 percent dependent on glassware and bangles, Om is Firozabad's largest factory, employing more than 3,000 people round the clock.

Blowing bubbles

All the glass is made by hand. Lithe men dip long pipes into a molten pool of glass in a gas-powered furnace. Each blows a bubble into his blob of glass before plunging it into a mould.

The glassblowers then toss the pipes down to youngsters, sitting cross-legged on the floor, who casually pluck the rods out of the air and cut the cooling glass free.

The process is primitive, but business is good. As workers load a container of glassware bound for Germany, general manager J.S. Chowdhary boasts that exports have risen by half in three years. Other markets include Italy, Britain and South Korea.

Chowdhary, who laughs off a question about the age of the factory's rusting machines, says automation would not pay for Om Glass Works because its production runs are too small.

Labour, moreover, works out cheaper than machinery. It costs Om 24 rupees (53 cents) to make a one litre thermos flask. China can churn them out for 15 rupees (33 cents), but its glass has more impurities than Firozabad's, says Chowdhary.

"We compete on quality not on price," he says. *Reuters*

Taking care of caregivers

A FILIPINA Muyco believes in the Filipnos' capability. Through her JLM Care Givers Training Center, Muyco sends many Filipinos abroad enjoy financial rewards albeit at the cost of being separated from family.

"I want them (caregivers) to know what lies out there for them. Many caregiver centers speak of false hope to its students just to increase their enrollment. While it may be true that a vast opportunity awaits them, it would still be difficult if nobody will look after them when they set foot abroad," says Muyco.

Her drive to help her countrymen first and foremost became the catalyst for her to finally put up her own caregiver institute.

Muyco is no stranger to living and doing business abroad. After finishing her Accounting in the University of San Carlos in Cebu City and earning her MBA degree in Finance afterwards, she spent one year working in the country as an accountant before flying off to Dubai, UAE to seek greener pastures.

Muyco says she decided to work abroad when the local politics was very unstable and the economy went downhill following the assassination of the late Sen. Ninoy Aquino. Off she flew to Dubai where she did not only gain monetary rewards but met her better half as well.

It is not surprising for this Cebuana to develop the skills of an entrepreneur as she spent 13 solid working years in the Middle East. In Dubai, Muyco ran a string of businesses including Joryli's Fashion, Blue Wings restaurant and Al Banna International Management Consultancy.

Now Liza Muyco returns to her motherland to try and help others realize their dreams of working abroad.

"I want to give back to the community whatever blessing bestowed on me. I want to help fellow Filipinos who, like me, dream of making it overseas," narrates Liza.

JLM Care Givers Training Center began its operation last March 2003 with only five students. Despite the expected "birth pains" of JLM Caregivers Training Center during its first year, Muyco still feels very optimistic about the center's success.

"My tool is my credibility as an established person in the industry. Many satisfied clients would refer JLM Care Givers Training Center to their relatives and friends who are considering a career in care giving because they know that they can trust me," explains Muyco who also manages the Canada-based Can Phil Immigration Services, USAPhil Recruiting Agency based in Los Angeles and ECL Languages and Review Center based in Vancouver.

Tesda accredited JLM Care Givers Training Center. Aside from maintaining competent instructors, JLM Care Givers Training Center prides itself in helping its students become good caregivers and getting stable jobs after graduation.

"It feels good to see other people achieve their goals of making it overseas. It's like seeing myself when I was learning the ropes of living abroad.

Hopefully, this positive experience would lead them to help other people as well," concludes Muyco, a mother of two.

It is important for future caregivers to consider not only where to study but also where their welfare is given utmost importance. This is Liza Muyco's mission.

Keeping skin care in the family

SOME kids do not want to follow their parents footsteps. They want to make good in another field. A field that is as far away as possible from that of their parents. The Bulquerin sisters are no different. When Raquel, Gina and Ruth were younger, they each pursued different courses—distancing themselves from their mothers' expertise. Never mind if they have a business that is in dire need of them.

The girls used to "despise" what their mothers did then they find themselves doing exactly the same thing now.

Serendipity. This they say, could very well be the best word that could speak of how Dolly's daughters has found interest in their facial business. But it could also be attributed to the constant exposure to their mother's line of work. Being a single parent, Dolly would often bring her children to her clinic, the Dolly Trading and Skin Care Clinic, exposing them to the ins and outs of the trade and unconsciously passing onto them an education no school can give.

Racquel and Gina were well on their way to earn big bucks in another country, but decided they could not leave mom. They started doing things for their mother. Racquel was first given bookkeeping. Today, she is Dolly's main woman—making sure that supplies never ran out and that they maintain liquidity. Gina has become mom's assistant—keeping tab of the operations of the clinic, while youngest daughter Ruth set up the latest equipment as she works for another company abroad.

DOLLY Di Paolo (right) with Australian skin care specialist Fiona Tuck.

Management styles between mother and daughters are really different. While mom trusts her instincts in making business decision, her daughters would run through the ideas thoroughly and do the numbers before arriving at a decision.

"We're even stricter than our Nanay. But we always respect her decision."

Apart from giving their know how on numbers to the business, they have also lured some friends into trying their brand of skin care. Now, their clientele is a happy mix of mom's crowd and daughters' crowd too. Clients not only leave with a rejuvenated skin, they also bring with them a happier disposition.

To this day, no one among Dolly's daughters have ever regretted their decision to go into their mother's business. They have appreciated having their own business.

Dolly couldn't be happier now that her daughters are actively engage in their facial care business. Especially now that she is set to join her husband John Di Paolo in Australia. There was a time when she just could not go. Leaving the facial clinic that has been their source of livelihood for years was really hard. But now, she can count on her daughters' wisdom and expertise in running the business themselves.

Mother and daughters maintain a clinic at the lower ground level of Cityland Condominium 8 at Gil Puyat, Makati City. Instead of being fazed by the competition that abounds in the skin care "industry," they happily say that "everybody has a place under the sun." They try to maintain their integrity and improve the quality of their services. Quality, personalized and yes—affordable facial care with the aid of state-of-the art equipment is really all in the family.

'Honey, the kids are watching too much TV'

From page B2-1

day's work."

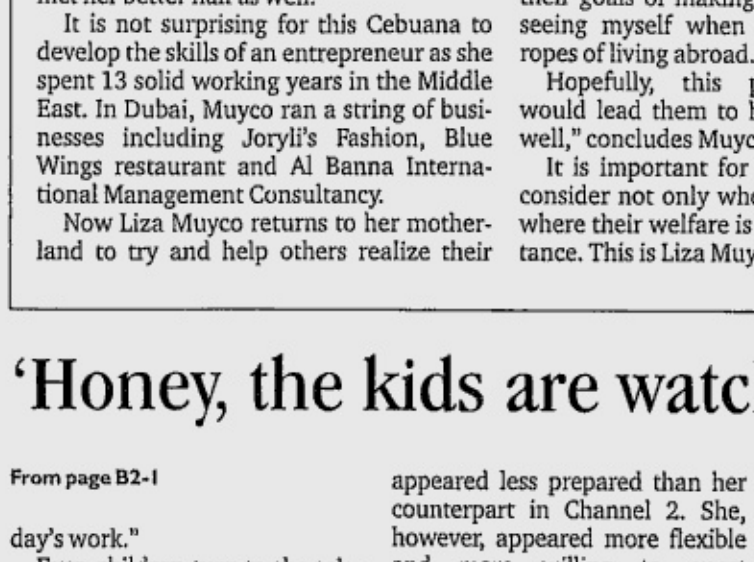
Even children turn to the television after a grueling day of schoolwork, Wilma Galvante, GMA network vice president for programming, said.

Galvante, as a media head of a large advertising head, pointed, appeared less prepared than her counterpart in Channel 2. She, however, appeared more flexible and more willing to enact changes. Parts of her talk were greeted with several applause especially the part where she said GMA is sticking it out with shows like "Altogether Now" and "Star Struck" even if these are not rating well yet, but because GMA tries to impart values to the audience.

Vidanes said polls showed that Filipinos still seek entertainment, and experiments with popular children's programs or cultural shows.

Programming, she said, was a complex equation that involved the inputs of the networks, their audience, advertising agencies and their corporate clients, American television networks that export canned programs to the country and the Asian broadcasting regulators.

This equation is also dictated by the market threat coming from the Internet, video games and the pirated VCDs and DVDs, she said.



INQUIRER booth provided interactive entertainment. TOOTS SOBERANO

RA 8370

Vidanes said the media must not replace parental authority in the family. Government, she said, could implement Republic Act No. 8370 or the Children Television Act of 1997 by setting up a public broadcasting system that would be devoted to developmental programming.

Abrera is an advocate of the Children Television Act, which, she said, remained under-subsidized and unimplemented.

The law requires the broadcast industry to screen all television broadcasts because programs, even those aimed at adults, must be child-friendly if these are shown on primetime or hours when children still have access to television.

But Abrera said current programming is a virtual "wasteland" filled with shows that copy American or British reality programs as well as those countries' sexual innuendoes and violent imagery.

She said one of the most criticized programs by international researchers is the MTV show "Jackass," which features young people risking stunts and practical jokes "just to see how they can get away with it."

"It is a depressing commentary on American youth who aspire to be jackasses," she said. But the country's programming is no better.

THE EXHIBIT during the 18th PAC showed new trends in advertising. TOOTS SOBERANO

"(Violence) is among the worst consequences that electronic media has brought to the country... Children lack critical judgment to draw the line between real and unreal," she said.

Abrera said the networks, the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) and the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) have already tempered the noontime shows, in reaction to complaints about excessive sexual content on GMA's Eat Bulaga and ABS-CBN's Masayang Tanghali Bayan (MTB).

But she said this was because more parents have started limiting their children's television time to reclaim their authority.

The impact of this reaction would cost the industry unless it shapes up, she said.

From basketball to Bush

WHILE Miguel Miñana did have big dreams for his event management company Themeworks when he set up shop almost three years ago, he never though his company would grow as fast in such a short span of time.

One of the projects Miguel is noted for was his collaboration with Presidential Socials Secretary Bettina Aboitiz, for coordination work during US President George W. Bush's recent visit to the Philippines. Miguel's main task was to coordinate for the technical requirements and event flow direction for the arrival reception, barrio fiesta, and, the elegantly prepared state dinner in Malacañang.

Miguel says the challenge for each function is different. "For the Bush visit for instance, the challenge was to be able to create an event that was very special and considerably large scale but at the same time nothing too extravagant and lavish. Miguel attributes this to the fine and sophisticated taste of Malacañang's Aboitiz whom he works closely with on all the projects he does for the Palace.

"We had numerous meetings to thresh out issues among which were picking the right entertainers for all three social events-a combination of home grown talents with international stature. Calls had to be made at all the odd hours to settle questions like "What the right repertoire is or what the best blend of entertainment numbers is?" Lea had to even fly in from California, where she now lives, just to make that once-in-a-lifetime command performance for the US President. Choosing the right technical suppliers was equally important too.

THEMEWORKS' Miguel Miñana

State dinner

Ultimately, the Malacañang team had to determine not only the appropriate content of the program, but also had to make sure that the timings for each portion are precise. "As to the state dinner, the flow from the entrance of guests to the speeches of the two presidents, the entertainment numbers, and the exit of the media people craning themselves to get a vantage view in covering President Bush and the First Lady to the grand parade of the waiters had to be very precisely done-all that pomp and pageantry had to be well executed," Miguel says.

"We had to keep a very close watch over the timing since President Bush had a very tight schedule. State dinners usually begin at 7:30, but this time it had to be done an hour earlier because dinner had to be done by eight-o-clock. We had to speed up the dinner faster than usual. The main dinner for a state banquet usually takes 55 minutes to an hour. This time it had to be done in 45 minutes.

But the question is, how do you speed up the dinner of two presidents? "Trade secret," Miguel says laughing. And the Malacañang team did it, finishing at exactly 7:58: enough time to wind down to the Palace reception hall where a sea of the high hats got a chance to take a photo of President Bush from their cell phones!

Memorable

Aside from the recent Bush visit, among the more memorable functions for Miguel was also his first for Malacañang—a state dinner in honor of Prince Andrew, the Duke of York. This function was particularly nerve-wracking because aside from being his first project with the Palace, Miguel's team had to take into consideration the Duke's stringent (and patently British!) schedule requirements. "For this event," says Miguel, "the technical coordination, which really forms the bulk of my job, had to be perfect."

Miguel reminisces that "the Prince's protocol officers and security personnel were very strict with timing. Everything had to be timed to the last minute, from the moment the Prince entered the Palace to the presentation of the waiters and direction of the entertainers. Thankfully, everything went according to plan that evening, and we went home knowing we had done a good job." Miguel has handled the Palace's state dinners and major functions that require entertainment and precise sequencing since.

Project to project

But Miguel's event management work is not limited to the Presidential Palace alone. His company, Themeworks, also handles corporate events.

Miguel's team has handled everything from Nike's nationwide basketball tournament, to Bulgari fragrance launches. "I've been working with Nike for several years already, along with other brands like Bulgari, Calvin Klein, BCBG, Shiseido and other known brands," says Miguel. Among their recent projects, Themeworks recently arranged the Philippine launch of Omnia, Bulgari's latest fragrance.

From ad man to event manager

Miguel comes from varied professions.

He worked with J. Romero and Associates, and other advertising outfits. He was among those that managed the staging of first Hope and More Superstakes in 1982. The event was the largest of its kind then. It was the first raffle that gave away P1 million in cash to each of the six winners.

"I've always loved organizing events. I already planned events even when I was still in college. In La Salle I put together events like school fairs," says Miguel. "Even when I was in the States working for my Grand Uncle Emmanuel Pelaez, I still handled events and communication activities for the Filipino community."

He set up one of the first bagel shops in Greenhills in '92. It was from this experience that Miguel decided that it was best to do it on his own.

Miguel maintains that the most important keys to success in the event management field is to have a healthy balance between creativity and practicality. " I think my being highly creative and yet very organized is what keeps me going", exclaims Miguel.

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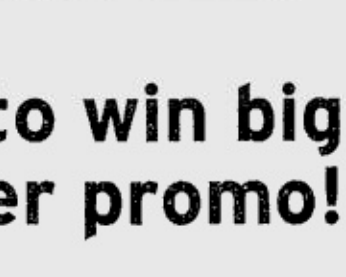

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Bringing down costs via efficient supply chains

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE of the most compelling issues among businesses today is cost. In today's globalized environment where profits are squeezed and sales are not turning up because of the economic slowdown, the only way left to stay in competition is to bring down expenses.

Some corporations control costs by retrenching people and letting go of some assets, but others have done it and are continuing to do it by managing their supply chain—that which connects everything from the purchase of raw materials to the distribution of the finished goods.

Robust Philippine corporations have long ago recognized the value of improving the efficiencies across the supply chain and have adopted various means of doing this, one of which was the use of the Internet and a suite of computer solutions custom-made for their needs.

Busines Friday features here some major Philippine companies that are leading the way in terms of using computer solutions to manage their supply chain.

RFM Corp.

Publicly listed RFM Corp. is the country's second largest producer of food and beverage products, and it attributes its continued success in the business to innovations through information technology.

RFM's Rene Pantangco says in an interview that through information technology, RFM has been able to connect and manage the major links in the supply chain.

This includes forecasting, planning, scheduling, distribution, manufacturing, purchasing, financial management and electronic commerce.

"We have made a lot of good decisions in so far as procurement of tools and training is concerned. That is why we have internal expertise and the technical capability to develop application interfaces to achieve seamless flow," Pantangco says.

He explains that RFM's investment and efforts to improve the supply chain have led to reduction in human error, better accuracy, less duplication of data, more consistency and higher productivity.

RFM likewise connected its internal system to its major customers such as Shoemart, Rustan's and Makro to gain real time access and accurately capture their orders.

The RFM group considers supply chain management as one of the most powerful and significant business and technology practices today.

"With customers becoming more powerful and demanding, a flexible and agile supply chain is imperative. We need to work closely with our network of business partners—distributors, suppliers, toll processors, etc. A continuous and fast feedback loop enables us to instantly implement changes," Pantangco stresses.

He adds that supply chain management goes a long way in managing inventory since this is where a lot of money is tied up.

"The area that can be improved is in vendor managed inventory. This is a very attractive arrangement with our distributors and would add value to the relationship. The benefits to are distributors are reduced capital tied-up in stock, raised service levels and massively reduced lead times," he says.

RFM developed its supply chain management system itself, first by organizing itself to move business assets efficiently from source of origin to the point of delivery.

Its vision is to effectively anticipate market demand, optimally position enterprise resources to meet demand and efficiently fulfill demand as they come.

"All the solutions or products we put in place, whether bought off the shelf, contracted outside or developed in-house support this vision. For the solutions, we built strategic alliances with premier technology and systems implementation firms," he says.

It is the desire to meet customers' needs rapidly and accurately that drives RFM to continue improving efficiencies across the supply chain.

"By delivering the right product at the right time we will get inspired loyalty from customers. Rapid, accurate order fulfillment speeds revenue recognition and encourages customers to purchase again and again," he says.

"By being more efficient, we will have the agility to respond to changes as well as to realize new revenue opportunities," he says.

RFM's current supply chain management has already gone a long way to meet its goals to be responsive to the rapidly changing customer needs and increasing competition, but this does not stop it from further improving its system.

"We want to extend our system to foster better collaboration and build stronger partnerships with our suppliers. If this collaboration is properly executed, we expect to gain great logistical improvements. Additionally, this would yield administrative savings, for example, in purchasing as there will be fewer delays. This will contribute to a more efficient and more cost-effecitve procurement process, reduce overhead expenses and ultimately, increase profit," Pantangco says.

Chowking Corp.

Chowking is the country's leading quick service restaurant chain serving Chinese food. It has close to 250 stores across the Philippines and Chowking president Rafael dela Rosa said that it was imperative for the company to manage the supply chain to make sure that products are delivered fresh, on time, all the time.

Dela Rosa says that Chowking developed an information system internally which allows each of the stores to project their food requirement for the next seven days.

That information would then be broken down into the raw materials required, checked against existing inventory, and the remaining orders sent to Chowking's central commissary in Muntinlupa City in Metro Manila.

The Muntinlupa commissary houses Chowking's warehouse and the manufacturing plant for the noodles, dimsum and meat products. It is also in this 15,000-square-meter complex where other raw materials, such as vegetables, are kept.

A second commissary is nearing completion in nearby Sucat which would produce enough to meet the requirements of Chowking's next 200 stores.

Dela Rosa said that the data that the commissary receives from all the stores are then made the basis for its production over the next week.

The data indicates how much raw materials it needs, where to order and when to order to keep up with the demand of the market.

In this way, wastage is kept at a minimum because the commissary only produces what is required by the stores.

"We wrote the software ourselves and customized it for our needs because these days, logistics without information technology is impossible," Dela Rosa says.

He added that with the practically seamless communication between the stores, the commissary and the top management, efficiencies are improved and orders are placed quickly and efficiently.

"Being timely and accurate is already a big advantage for us and because we get the data from the stores everyday, we are able to project sales and trends so we can tell the commissary to adjust production either up or down," he says.

Dela Rosa says supply chain management is even more crucial in the food business because food must always be served fresh, or else they would lose out to competition.

"You can not do business if you are still worried about logistics. Manufacturing and logistics have become the fundamental bedrock of our business and is our competitive advantage now because of our efficiencies," he states.

Microwarehouse Inc.

Microwarehouse is a leading distributor of networking and lifestyle digital devices. It began operations in 1992 and pioneered in the data networking field with 3Com, but it eventually diversified into the distributorship business, handling top brands such as 3Com, Linksys and PALM. Microwarehouse president Inch Veloria says that with product cycles becoming shorter in the information technology business, it is a challenge for a distributor like Microwarehouse to keep its inventory current and within manageable levels.

This is the reason behind its investment in an information system this year to get real-time and reliable information to manage the supply chain, which its previous customized software was not able to address.

Veloria says the problems experienced were: incomplete data on purchase of dealers; financial information that needed a lot of month-end manual adjustments since it was not able to capture and link all pertinent transactions; poor tracking of marketing and other expenses that needed to be billed to our principals, resulting in unpaid invoices.

MICROWAREHOUSE'S Inch Veloria

With the new ERB software in place, Veloria says Microwarehouse expects to keep ahead of competition and maintain profit levels because of improved supply chain management.

The software would provide information on how much was bought from suppliers to effectively monitor supplier quotas; how much was sold to dealers to track their performance; value and status of receivables to manage cash flow; and volume, value and aging of stocks in warehouse, so that Microwarehouse can move out inventory faster.

"Managing inventory is especially vital for an IT distributor since we have to ride the technology wave... the next goal is to integrate our dealers into an e-commerce system, where they can order on-line, get information on the status of their orders and total purchases. We hope to achieve this by next year," Veloria says.

She said the information is needed to track consumer behavior, thus, enabling Microwarehouse to know what products to get.

"We sit down with our dealers to discuss how much we sold and how to proceed on the second month," she says.

On the supplier side, Veloria says most are online so all information needed to place and track the status of the orders are online.

"Information is key because it is a numbers game. We have to know much we bought or sold to help manage margins. Without it, you would not be able to survive especially in information technology where prices are going down all the time," she says.

Microwarehouse, however, was able to hold its own in the distribution market because of its reputation as a value-added distributor, with services going beyond just selling.

It provides other services such as project pre-sales and post-sales support; training and product installation and maintenance.

"We help our dealers with system design and configuration, product and design presentations and end-user training. We also provide regular product and technical hands-on training, not only for the dealers, but the end-users as well," she says.

Direct sales ...

From page B2-7

buano entrepreneurs liked their products and in a couple of weeks, they were doing business.

Opportunities for marketers

At one of our seminars, MRx ran into a Sara Lee executive who told us that the big direct selling companies are always on the lookout for new suppliers. In direct sales, as well as network marketing, new product introductions are crucial for sales growth.

Opportunities exist for manufacturers and marketers to supply the likes of Sara Lee Direct Selling and Avon with new lipstick, make-up or cologne lines. Sara Lee, for example, sells more than 14,000 sticks of one lipstick brand a week to its distributors.

Every month, Avon prints at least 600,000 copies of its product catalogue for their distributors. MRx sees opportunities for marketers to help supply Avon with some of those products featured in their direct selling catalog, however difficult the supplier selection process may be.

At the Direct Marketing Association of the Philippines economic briefing that MRx attended last Tuesday, the resource speaker, Professor Federico Mascarinas of the Asian Institute of Management noted that in 2004, personal consumption and spending was expected to increase.

One opportunity pointed out by Prof. Mascarinas for marketers was in "nutriceuticals." Locally, think Charantia and ABS.

MRx sees opportunities for entrepreneurs to approach the existing multinational nutriceutical direct selling and network marketing companies like Sunrider, Symmetry, and Reliv and supply them with locally manufactured health products (including herbal teas) that they could brand as their own. This way, they could also offer vitamins and herbal products that they could sell at a lower, "masa-friendlier" price, compared to the more expensive imports that are affected by the peso's instability. After all, there is an estimated 2 million Filipinos—most of them belonging to the class CDE—engaged in direct selling or network marketing.

Interested to explore this? Check out the Direct Selling Association of the Philippines (DSAP) website, www.dsap.ph, for leads and more info on the member companies.

Congratulations to the Direct Marketing agencies, especially, OgilvyOne and BCD Pinpoint, iLeo/FirstDirect, and INDIO, who won Araw Awards at the Ad Congress in Baguio last weekend.

For comments or questions, email at MarketingRx@SaltAndLightVentures.com

BAGGING PIRACY

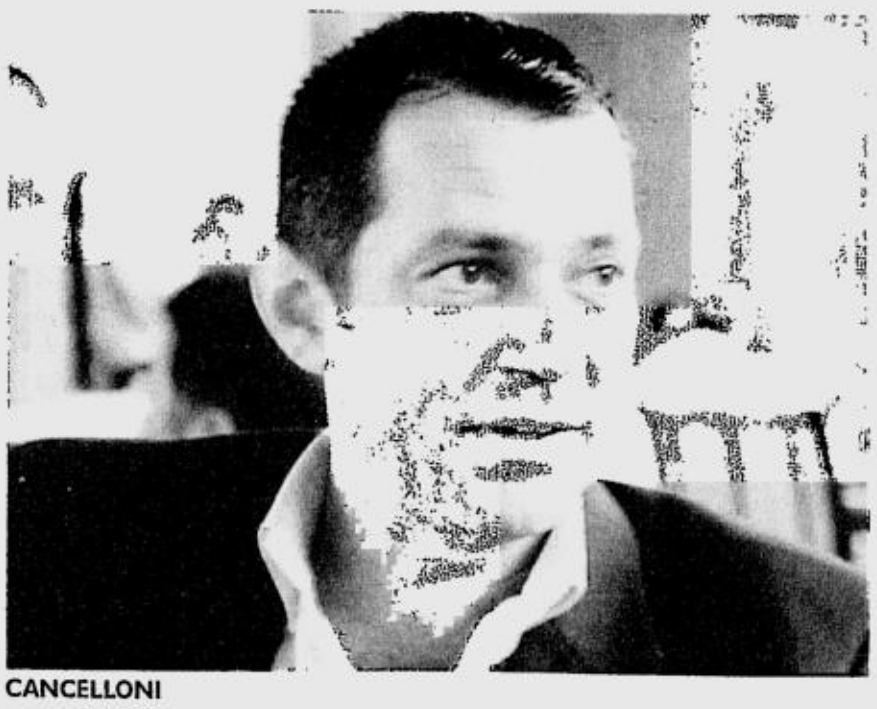
Fighting fakes in the local market

MOST Filipinos instantly relate piracy with fake CDs and software. Little attention has been paid to how counterfeit products are proliferating across a vast array of industries. Today, nearly all products, from automotive parts to medicines, dry cell batteries to software, books to garments have been counterfeited, costing global industries $100 billion in 2002.

This figure, already three times the GNP of a small country like the Netherlands, accounts for 6 to 7 percent of global trade. A study by the International Anti-Counterfeit Coalition says that uncurbed piracy could eat up 10 percent of global trade by 2006.

"The unhindered sale of fake products almost equate to systemic economic plunder. If left unremedied, piracy will destroy brands and wipe out legitimate businesses. The economic implications of this crime are far-reaching, and are a cause for concern for all businesses. This also erodes business' confidence in government. After all, who would want to invest in a country that cannot protect their investments?" said Raffy Manalaysay, Project Director of the Brand Protection Association (BPA). "Moreover, IP protection is not anti-Filipino as some people think because piracy is a crime against any IP owner, local or foreign.

The BPA is a conglomeration of 14 multi-national companies operating in the Philippines who have been alarmed by this trend. The BPA is also a founding member of the IP Coalition, a multi-sectoral group calling for the passage of legislation against piracy at large. Here, the past three years has seen an unobstructed increase in the sale of fakes and smuggled imports. A study by the Presidential Inter-Agency Committee on Intellectual Property Rights (IAC-IPR) reports that the value of confiscated or seized goods by various government agencies involved in the fight against piracy had risen to P1.05 billion in 2001, from only P110 million in 1998.



CANCELLONI

"It will take a concerted, consistent effort to eradicate this problem. It is even more difficult since our culture allows this lack of respect for intellectual property. But if we do not act now, there is an even chance that the Philippines may become a pariah in the global market. Businesses will simply move somewhere else," stressed Manalaysay.

Alarmed by this trend, VF Corporation (VF Corp.), the world's largest apparel company has joined the Brand Protection Association (BPA), a local group composed of multinationals and large local companies, to fight the war against piracy; primarily, the proliferation of fake JanSport bags in the Philippine market. "It's only logical that we get involved in this agenda. After all, we want to protect our brands and our customers from this crime," said Frank Cancelloni, Asia-Pacific General Manager for VF Outdoor Coalition. VF Corp. is the first apparel company to join BPA.

VF Corp. is the global leader in creating powerful brands of casual and outdoor apparel. Among the brands they distribute to 150 countries throughout North America, Europe and Asia are JanSport, The North face, Eastpak, Wrangler, Lee, Riders, Rustlers, Gitano, Vassarette, Chic, Lily of France, Healthtex, 20X, Bestform, Curvation and Chase Authentics. "Because of its high quality and visibility, JanSport bags have become the target of local imitators who sell their inferior counterfeits to both suspecting and unsuspecting customers," said Marisol Marcelo, Marketing and Sales Director of Uniglobe Travelware Co. Inc. (UTCI), VF Corp's exclusive JanSport distributor in the country.

With VF Corp's support, the BPA is working to make government acknowledge the big problem that piracy presents, pool and cross-reference information against known traffickers and lobby for the prioritization of strong and enforceable legislation to protect intellectual property.

While UTCI has been very active in helping coordinate surveillance and raiding operations, penalties should also be made stiffer for the thievery of intellectual property. "The United States penalizes this crime with at least $2M and 10 years in jail. In China, counterfeiters are penalized $1000. Here, penalty ranges from $900-$4,000 and 2-5 years in jail. "The penalties have to be made more intimidating in order to deter pirates," said Cancelloni.

Already, millions of pesos worth of fake JanSport bags have been confiscated by the NBI, the manufacturers, importers and retailers will be charged with unfair competition, trademark infringement and false designation of origin under the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines or Republic Act 8293. "These are just preliminary steps we have taken in order to protect our investment here in the Philippines. We are here for the long haul and will exhaust every legal action necessary to offer our products and remain here," stressed Cancelloni. In the Philippines, VF Asia is represented by its local counsel, Quisumbing Torres Law Office, in its JanSport's anti-counterfeiting efforts.

The rise in popularity of authentic JanSport backpacks has become a double-edged sword for VF Corp. and UTCI. While sales remain high, the brand has also become the choice target of counterfeiters. But this, reveals Cancelloni, highlights one strategy in the fight against the piracy of JanSport bags. "We have to continue to innovate. We have to make sure we keep coming up with excellent, high quality brands done with excellent skill that will make our customers feel good about owning the real thing. We will continue to market our brands with the highest levels of honesty, integrity, consideration and respect. These are the things that cannot be duplicated."

Grand Open House
Saturday November 29 2003

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Golf Clubhouse Perspective

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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Excellence award now set for top SME users of IT

THE PHILIPPINE Internet Commerce Society (PICS) is set to confer awards on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that have adopted the best practices in e-commerce and information technology to expand their markets, improve customer relationships, and make their business operations cost-efficient and profitable.

The prestigious PICS-SME IT Excellence Award will be held at the Philippine Trade Training Center at 6 p.m. of Dec. 2.

"The Award is supportive of the National SME Development Agenda and consistent with the Asia Pacific Economic Conference's strategy for digitizing SMEs as a way of uplifting the economies of member countries," said PICS president May Anne Tolentino.

SMEs are companies with assets ranging from P3 million to P15 million (for small enterprises) and P15 million to P100 million (for medium).

In terms of personnel, small enterprises are those with 10 to 99 employees, while medium with 100 to 1,000.

Nominations for the awards are still being accepted and must be emailed to Ernie G. Imperial through ernie@datapax.net. Imperial is the head of the PICS-SME IT Excellence Awards Committee.

"The nominees will be gauged in terms of profitability, financial savings, efficiency in internal processes, customer relationships, and other relevant metrics," Tolentino added.

The PICS-SME Excellence Award forms part of the 2nd National E-Commerce Congress and Exhibit, which runs at the PTTC from Dec. 2 to 4.

The three-day event highlights the national economic significance of SMEs, which comprise a large percentage of the country's business community.

"So we have chosen to focus the congress and exhibit on the theme, 'Strengthening SME competitiveness through IT and E-Commerce,' which is aimed at bringing together the SMEs nationwide, help them understand the benefits of working in a digital environment, and supply them with the much needed information to get them started properly in e-business," Tolentino explained.

"Moreover, the participants will catch the latest trends in mobile and wireless technologies as tools for e-business, learn from experts about what's new in electronic payments and Internet security, network with industry leaders and professionals via one-on-one consultations, and expand their customer base by promoting their products and services to the growing Philippine SME market," Tolentino said.

More details on the event can be obtained from Fiera de Manila (899-6893, 896-0639, 896-0637, e-mail fiera@info.com.ph; or log on to www.fmi.com.ph, www.pics.org.ph).

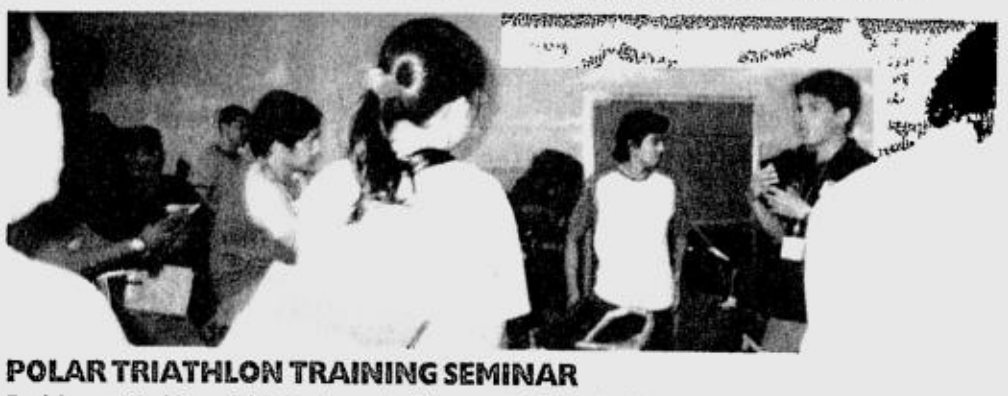
Aside from SMEs, expected to benefit immensely from the congress are entrepreneurs, chief information officers, wireless content providers, financial and e-bankers, IT/MIS managers, IT project managers, cyber lawyers, policy makers, legislators, educators, web developers, law enforcement personnel, and venture capital firms, among many others.

Other participants include leading technology and software vendors, Internet and web service providers, IT and management consulting firms, mobile and wireless telecom companies, financial institutions and e-banks, training institutes, education centers, software development organizations, and government agencies.

The congress is sponsored by Globe Telecom Inc, Innove, Globe Quest, PLDT, BancNet, Equitable PCIBank, Computer Associates, Microsoft, Pacific Internet, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Times, Business World, INQ7.net, Business World Online Inc, Computer Times, Computer World, IT Update, iTpros.ph, Softrigger Interactive and Web Philippines Inc.

CHRISTMAS SHOP EXPO

Shown during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the biggest 'all-in-one event showcase' at the World Trade Center, from left, are project director of CUT Unlimited Mayose Gozon-Bautista, NAFC director Maridel T. Dizon, Bantayog Foundation chair Sen. Jovito R. Salonga, Inquirer chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto, GMA Kapuso Foundation endorser and showbusiness star Jolina Magdangal and Bantayog Foundation executive director Dr. Quintin S. Doromal. The Christmas Shop Expo is part of Noel Bazaars Series, which will have its finale at the Manila Polo Club on Nov. 29 and 30 for the Noel Discovery Bazaar.



POLAR TRIATHLON TRAINING SEMINAR

Raul Cuevas (2nd from right), head coach of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines, discusses the basics of triathlon in a seminar dubbed 'Heart Rate Training for Triathletes' attended by health buffs and extreme sports fans at the Fitness First gym ABS-CBN branch recently. Cuevas also advised participants about the use of the Polar Heart Rate Monitors as a tool for triathletes. Polar is a product of Finland with ECG accurate heart rate monitoring features, which helps wearers and athletes design and outline their training program. Polar organized the seminar with support from Stronghold Insurance Inc, Fitness First, Saucony, Saeko Swimming Goggles and Accessories, Toby's Sports, Sports Resources Inc, Gardenia, and Fruit Magic Company Inc. For inquiries, call Peng Young at 671-9765.

GREENWICH OPENS SHANGRI-LA MALL STORE

Greenwich, the leader in the pizza industry, recently opened another beautiful store at the Shangri-la Mall in Mandaluyong City. The store, located at the Food Court, now welcomes pizza, pasta and chicken-loving customers.

Who's who, newcomers in RP business among EOY nominees

THE SGV Foundation and the Department of Trade and Industry announced recently that the roster of nominees to the first-ever Entrepreneur of the Year (EOY) Philippines includes who's who entrepreneurs in Philippine business as well as up-and-coming heads of small and medium outfits.

This, as lawyer Rodolfo O. Reyes, spokesperson for the Search for EOY Philippines, states that the search is into the judging phase.

He also said that as winners are awaited, the EOY Philippines committee is now commencing preparations for the Philippine participation in the World EOY awards to be held in Monte Carlo, Monaco in mid-2004.

A distinguished panel of judges representing the government, banking, business and academe will convene for the final selection of winners in the five award categories: Master Entrepreneur, Emerging Entrepreneur, Information and Communications Technology Entrepreneur, Young Entrepreneur and Socially Responsible Entrepreneur.

Among these winners will emerge the first Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines. The winners will be announced in a grand awards banquet in early 2004. The first Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines will represent the country in the World EOY Awards.

The category that had the highest turnout of nominees was for the Socially Responsible Entrepreneur. The award honors the individual who has used his or her private sector skills and creativity to help his or her community overcome social or environmental problems. The award is not intended to recognize the largest and or most visible charitable contributors, but rather to celebrate successful entrepreneurs' individual efforts to give something back to their community.

For-profit businesses that have or create products with social benefit were not included in this category unless they practiced social responsibility in all aspects of their operations.

The initial crop of nominees for the Socially Responsible Entrepreneur is a mix of companies from the manufacturing, entertainment and service industries.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines will confer the Socially Responsible Entrepreneur Of TheYear Award. The BAP is the umbrella organization of the country's biggest commercial banks. It is one of the strategic partners of the SGV Foundation and DTI in the search for the first EOY Philippines.

Other strategic partners are the Philippine Stock Exchange and the University of the Philippines College of Business Administration.

The EOY award, which is now held in over 40 countries, was launched in the United States in 1986 by Ernst and Young, a global professional services firm. Previous winners include Michael Dell of Dell Computers, Howard Schultz of Starbucks, Pierre Omidyar of eBay Inc. and Jeff Bezos of Amazon.com.

BITS & Clips

C-note Festival

THE SEARCH continues for the best student keyboard player and student teacher music tandem as Casio Music Circle presents the C-note Festival. It is open to all bonafide elementary and high school students and faculty members from Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Interested students and faculty members can secure entry forms at the Casio Music Circle, Casio Service Center (at 380 DSL Building, Del Monte Avenue, Quezon City) or Casio Showroom at SM Soutmall, Las Piñas City, and forward their application together with the letter of recommendation from the school, proof of enrollment for students, certificate of employment (for faculty members), photocopy of identification card and two pieces of ID pictures on or before Nov. 28 to Casio C-note secretariat c/o Projectionals Marketing and Communications. Call Jay Pabularcon at 687-7486 to 87 for details.

'Electile Dysfunction'

ELECTILE Dysfunction, a wacky presentation tackling the electoral process goes onstage from Dec. 3 to 6 at the Republic of Malate, Mabini Street, Malate, Manila. The play stars veteran performers Cynthia Patag, Boboy Garovillo, Dyords Javier, Nonie Buencamino, Robert Sena, Robbie Guevarra and Patricia Ysmael with the special participation of Boy Abunda. It is directed by Leo Rialp with musical arrangement by Tats Faustino, and is presented by Yes-FM, Love Radio, DZRH, Samsung, Yellow Cab, The Forum, Smart Hair Specialists, Ville Sommet Tagaytay, Barangay Bel-Air, and Bel-Air Village Association. The show is for the benefit of Aksyon Agad Foundation. For ticket inquiries call 843-3836, 843-3503, Republic of Malate 551-7251 to 55, 303-3529, Ticketworld 891-5610.

USTHS Class '65 reunion

CLASS 1965 of the University of Sto. Tomas High School will hold its annual gathering on Nov. 28 at 6 p.m. at the Skyline Restaurant, World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard cor. Gil Puyat Ave. in Pasay City. The theme of the reunion is "Runaway with USTHS Class 65 (38th Anniversary Edition)". Members of USTHS Class '65 are advised to call and register with committee members Rodolfo Tuazon (02) 743-0549; Letty Bernardo Bautista (02) 770-8676; Tess Bautista Singson (02) 374-4603 and Redor (02) 926-3511.

Baley Co reunion

THE ALAMINIANS from the City of Alaminos, Pangasinan, will hold their annual reunion at the Quezon City Sports Club located at E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City on Dec. 7 with a dinner-dance. The affair starts at 7 p.m. This yearly affair is sponsored by the Alaminos Baley Co Inc, a socio-civic organization of Alaminos folks residing in Metro Manila. For details, call Manuel Sison at 449-4561, 921-6743 or 0917-5400114, Emma Ruiz Siapno at 641-7993, 641-0640 or 0917-8401858, or Olga Peralta Tongco at 984-0024, 984-6505 or 0917-8737815.

A night of bonding

THE UNIVERSIDAD de Santa Isabel Alumnae Association-Metro Manila invites its members to a night of sisterhood, camaraderie and bonding in the spirit of Christmas 2003 with dancing, fun games and raffle draws on Nov. 29, 5 p.m. until "Cinderella time" at the ground floor of the Formoso Hall of the Architectural Center Club Inc at 6082 Palma Street, Rockwell Drive, Makati City. Come in smart/casual attire, and bring a Christmas package worth at least P200 if you wish to join the exchange of gifts. For more details, call Ming at 823-7837, Nellie at 850-9252, Malou at 0918-9418678, or Elvie at 533-9419.

Comics art festival

THE SAN Pablo Comics Art Festival will be held on Dec. 7 at the Mariño's Residence from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Guests include Leinil Francis Yu ("X-Men", "Superman"), Wilson Tortosa ("Battle of the Planets", "Tomb Raider"), Gerry Alanguilan ("Wasted", "Superman"), Carlo Vergara ("Zsa Zsa Zatturnah", "One Night in Purgatory"), Carlo Pagulayan ("Elektra"), Edgar Tadeo ("Iron Man", "Wolverine"), Gilbert Monsanto ("Darna", "Biotrog"), Ryan Orosco ("Darna", "Stricken"), and Budjette Tan ("Alamat Comics"). Activities include comics signing, original comic art exhibit, indie comic sales, portfolio review, an on-the-spot art contest, and face painting. Admission is free. For more information, log on to www.komikero.com/festival.html

ProductFILES

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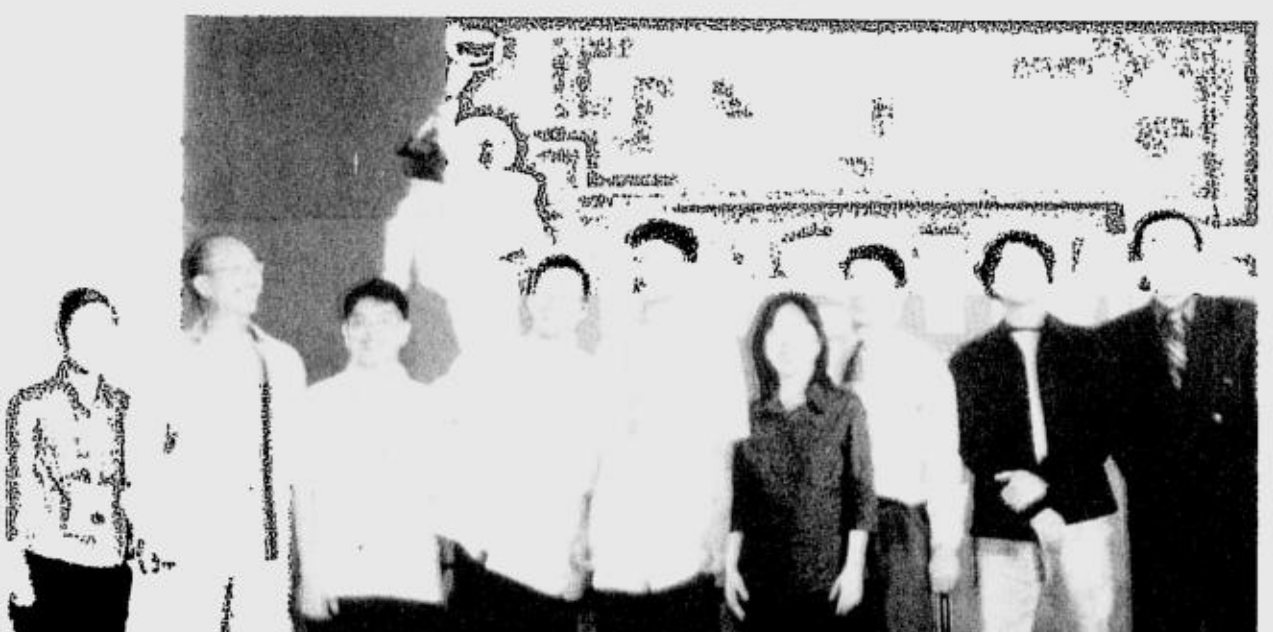
An ideal balance of these two nutrients can be found in milk calcium.

This tip was brought to you by Alaska Hi-Cal-fortified with 100-percent milk calcium from 100-percent natural milk and accepted by the Osteoporosis Society of the Philippines.



PSHS WINS HONDA QUIZ CHALLENGE

Honda Cars Philippines Inc, in line with the recent visit of robot Asimo, recently held the championship round of the Honda Quiz Challenge for high school students at the Shangri-la Mall. The scope of the quiz tackled general science and some questions about Honda and Asimo in an effort to promote science and technology among Filipino students. Shown are the triumphant students from Philippine Science High School, the Honda Quiz Challenge Champions, starting from 3rd from left, John Patrick Manalo, Pablito Tolentino Jr, Raphael Santos and coach Monica Xavier with (from left) Honda Cars Philippines assistant manager for corporate communications Min Magbal and deputy head for marketing division Arnel Doria joined by judges Selwin Alojipan and Bong Barrameda and host Apollo Abraham.

PHILIPS AT BRITISH EXHIBIT

Philips Consumer Electronics, Europe's number 1 consumer electronics company, recently sponsored 'Measure for Measure', an exhibition on British design education organized by the British Council. The exhibit featured the works of young British industrial design team Nick Paterson and Nick Jinkinson of United Kingdom's Studio Flatform and the Royal College of Art, and Filipino fashion designer Lesley Mobo of Central St. Martins. At the event, video clips are shown in the Philips Projection TV to give viewers a glimpse of the artists' other works. Paterson (left) and Jinkinson are shown at the exhibit opening.

Direct sales and network marketing: Go or no go?

LAST week, we defined direct selling, network marketing and direct marketing. We also promised that we'd share our recommendation to the group of Cebuano entrepreneurs who wanted to distribute their new line of personal care products from Europe through direct selling or network marketing.

Since this group went into the trouble of flying to Manila to get our advice (they actually attended one of our seminars), MarketingRx helped set up meetings for them and some people who were into direct selling including Josiah Go, acknowledged guru of direct selling and network marketing.

Go has written several books on direct selling and network marketing and has taught the same as an elective, first at the Ateneo (where he also invited MRx to lecture with him) and at DLSU. Go also owns and runs Waters Philippines, a consumer durables company that distributes its products using network marketing.

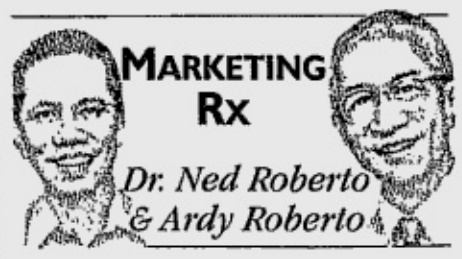
Decision to use network marketing

Josiah Go asked the Cebuano entrepreneurs some basic questions and looked at their product line. In Malaysia and Indonesia, this "unknown" European brand, through its importers, was beating Johnson & Johnson by simply putting all of its products next to J&J's and pricing their brands at exactly 10 percent less than J&J's.

This, of course, was accomplished by offering a likewise bigger trade discount as an incentive to the supermarket owners. It also helped that this European brand had very similar packaging and product quality to that of J&J. The result, according to the Cebuanos, was a respectable and very profitable market share by the European brand.

"So why not do the same thing here?" we asked the Cebuanos.

Competing for supermarket shelf space is a totally different game in the Philippines, we were told. It takes much



more than offering a bigger discount to the Sys and the other retailing moguls.

As the senior MRx was told before by one of the younger Sys managing the SM Supermarket business, "We are not in the supermarket business. We are in the real estate business and we rent out space by the square centimeter."

SM Supermarket looks at their shelf space as prime real estate and each product that occupies that space must produce the maximum "rental income." This means that the product must be a proven best seller. It can also sometimes mean that you have to cough up extra cash as "rental" to be located in prime shelf space.

This was cash that the Cebuano entrepreneurs did not have. They also did not have the cash to advertise and support the brand. In Malaysia and Indonesia, the European brand importers had to advertise to support its pricing strategy.

"That's why we thought of direct selling or network marketing." The Cebuanos had hoped that they could find a group that could help them set up a network marketing operation that could distribute their products.

When Go went over their product lines and the retail price list, the decision to setup a network marketing group was a no-go. There simply wouldn't be enough profit (at least 60-70 percent margin) to sustain an MLM distribution set up.

It turned out that part of the exclusive distributorship agreement that the Cebuano entrepreneurs had signed with their European principals specifically prohibited them from pricing their brand more than J&Js! The contract had in fact specified that they would follow the worldwide pricing strategy, which was to be cheaper than J&J by 10 percent. It had worked in other countries and they wanted the Cebuanos to copy that.

Go direct selling

It was back to the drawing board for the Cebuanos. The day after the meeting with Go, MRx arranged a meeting for them with a group of ex-Tupperware, Symmetry and Mondragon direct selling executives who had just put up their own direct selling company.

If it was going to be too expensive for the Cebuano's to put up their own network marketing or direct selling operation, why not just supply their products to an existing direct selling company, depending on the discount, at 25 percent-40 percent discount?

That was our Marketing Rx and it turned out to be the solution. The new direct selling company that we introduced to the Ce-

DIRECT/ B2-4

People, Events & Products

Something new brewing from Globequest

GLOBEQUEST, the corporate data service of Innove Communications, and Intel Microelectronics Philippines got together recently at Greenbelt 3 over a cup of coffee to share their latest brew during a coffee festival.

Greenbelt 3 is the first wireless mall in the country, said Gil Genio, chief executive officer of Innove Communications at the formal launching of the partnership between Intel and Globequest. "We are proud to be part of making this a reality. We want our services to be anywhere people gather or where they need to access information." At the launch, which was held in a cozy Cafea, it was formally announced that Globequest is the first Intel-verified wireless Internet service provider in the Philippines. Globequest and Intel are cooperating to drive the deployment of the application of 802.11b based wireless local area networks (LANs) in the Philippines to allow notebook and PDA users to wirelessly connect to the Internet and corporate networks at broadband speeds in malls, lounges, airports, convention centers and other places where lots of people gather.

As of June the Wireless Internet Zone (WIZ) of Globequest has 20 "hotspots" nationwide. Hotspots are places where subscribers of the service can go and use their notebooks or PDAs minus the need for wires. The boundary between work and play has been removed. "What we have done is to provide the ultimate convenience in Internet use," added Genio.

Globequest has chosen GB3 as one of its WIZ zones because it is the place to be. And being there need not mean leaving work behind. CEOs, journalists, office workers, and anyone else who needs to stay connected can go there anytime of the day and do just that with Globequest. "What we at Intel want to do is to make access to the Internet available anywhere, just like coffee," said Ricky Banaag, country manager for Intel Microelectronics. "And just like a good cup of coffee, we want to make using our services the best possible experience for our customers."

Globequest is now part of more than 80 service providers worldwide whose networks have been verified as part of Intel's Wireless Verification Program. The program aims to enable interoperability and enhance user's wireless experience with Intel Centrino mobile technology-based notebooks.

Shop, dine, and then while having that cup of brew, plug up your notebook and get connected, all in one day. Perfect for the busy execs who need to spend time with the family but still have some work to do. Or tell the boss you need to unwind at GB3 with the promise that work will not stop because you are taking your notebook with you.

AYALA Land's Johnny Alegre, Globequest VP Boboy Romero, Globequest marketing head Grace Castillo with Innove Communications chief executive officer Gil Genio.

'STRINGS of Hope' at Chef & Brewer

Globelines presents Paolo

PAOLO Santos looks so unassuming in person until you hear him sing. Once he strums his guitar and lets you listen to his well-controlled, full-toned falsetto, you'll forget that you have a date beside you.

As a self-taught guitarist, Paolo Santos is one of the hottest artists making waves in the Philippine music scene today.

At a fully packed Chef & Brewer bar in Ortigas, Globelines-the wireline voice service of Innove Communications, recently sponsored the celebrated acoustic artist's one-night-only performance dubbed "Strings of Hope". Making the event more special was the fact that part of the show's proceeds would benefit the Bigay Pagmamahal and Lab foundations.

Globelines was only too glad to share Paolo's great performance with some of its music-loving customers. Like the others who trooped to Chef & Brewer, Globelines customers had to agree that Paolo, indeed, is "Mr. Acoustic."

Joining Paolo that night were jazz singers Romy Jorolan and May Bayot. The crowd grew intense as they witnessed the acoustic artists jamming away, song after song. They performed their own rendition of "Here, There and Everywhere", "Fast Car" and "Overjoyed."

PAOLO Santos

GLOBE RECIPIENT OF CONSUMERS' CHOICE AWARD

Globe Telecom was recently given a consumers' choice award during the 2003 Consumers' Choice & Dangal ng Pilipinas Annual Awards held at the Henry Lee Irwin Theatre at the Ateneo de Manila University. Recognizing Globe as the country's most outstanding telecommunications company, the consumers' choice award was conferred to the telecommunications firm by the Consumers' League of the Philippines Foundation Inc. (Conphil). Accepting the award for Globe Telecom is Globe public relations head Jones Campos (center). Presenting the award are (from left) national nominations chair Teresita Vinluan, Joy Belmonte, who represented her father Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, awards presenter chair professor Lourdes Lero, Quezon City Councilor Dante de Guzman, guest presenter Judge Augustus Diaz, and legal and board of jurors chair lawyer Andreto Teleron.

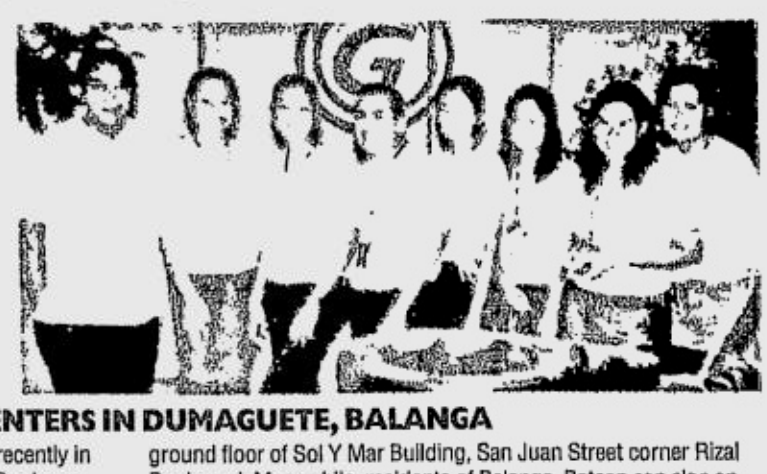
Globe, Jollibee promo extended

GLOBE and Jollibee, two companies known for their commitment to strengthening the Filipino family through mobile technology and happy moments, respectively, have tied up to deliver even more delight to their consumers, who now have until Nov 30 to purchase the Globe Prepaid 64K X-treme Memory SIM which will entitle them to a free two-piece Jollibee Chickenjoy meal or Spaghetti Special with Regular Yum meal.

Dubbed as Bee Connected with Globe promo, the new offer not only allows Globe Handyphone Prepaid subscribers to experience superior connectivity with Globe through the X-treme Memory SIM's exciting features such as a 500-phonebook memory and 80 text message storage capacity, but also enjoy free treats from Jollibee. To claim the free Jollibee meal, a new Globe subscriber must make a first chargeable call, wait for a text message from 2977, and present the text message together with the emptied SIM casing to any Jollibee store. They then have until Jan. 29, 2004 to claim their free Jollibee meals.

"This connection with Jollibee makes sense on a lot of levels. Jollibee and Globe have a lot in common where the welfare and happiness of our customers are concerned. Both have created meaningful impacts in the ways Filipinos connect with their family and friends," said Chinky Alcedo, head of Globe Handyphone marketing.

Get a Globe prepaid X-treme Memory SIM and Bee connected now.



NEW GLOBE TELECOM BUSINESS CENTERS IN DUMAGUETE, BALANGA

The Globe Telecom Business Center (GTBC) opened recently in Dumaguete as the city ushered in the much-awaited Buglasan Festival. GTBC Dumaguete promises to be another welcome addition to the growing business community in the area. GTBC Dumaguete's interiors (shown at left) feature lifestyle walls that sport bright hues to give it a vibrant and active feel. In-store lighting with wash effect not only brightens the place but also adds youthful character and personality. Customers can view the latest phone models laid out on handset displays, highlighting key features and best value deals. GTBC Dumaguete is located at the ground floor of Sol Y Mar Building, San Juan Street corner Rizal Boulevard. Meanwhile, residents of Balanga, Bataan can also enjoy fully the convenient services of GTBC-Bataan. The opening kicked off with a morning motorcade that paced the streets of Balanga, followed by a store blessing officiated by Father Leo Pena. Balanga Mayor Abet Garcia cut the ceremonial ribbon. Globe Telecom regional business director-north Luzon Fred Fajatin led the opening. GTBC Balanga Bataan is located at the ground floor of Recar Commercial Complex, JP Rizal Street, Balanga, Bataan. Shown at right is the GTBC Balanga team.

ProductFILES

New Jolly Kiddie Meal gets Looney Tunes back in action

THE LOONEY Tunes pack is in town with the latest Jolly Kiddie Meal, "Looney Tunes Back in Action!" Jollibee ties-up with Warner Brothers Pictures for the advance screening of this hilarious and fun-filled movie and for the new Jolly Kiddie Meal toys.

Let your kids play spies in these brilliant Looney Tool gadgets. They can scribble secret messages with the pencil hidden in Bugs & Daffy Spy Mobile. All they have to do is look for this very important tool at the hood of the car. Clue: it has the Looney Tunes spy logo.

If they "tawt they taw a puddy tat", they probably did as Tweety and Sylvester get into a high-flying chase at the Eiffel Tower in the Tweety & Sylvester Paris Adventure. It's a neverending pursuit for this pair as they go through a whacking escapade in this Jolly Kiddie Meal toy.

Here's another pair on a hunt-and-chase frenzy. In the Bugs & Taz African Cookout, Taz finally catches up with Bugs Bunny and cooks our favorite bunny in a huge cauldron, African style.

Daffy takes a slice of Hollywood as he directs a movie. Just be careful your kids do not push the large bar marked "action!" behind the director's chair or else Director Daffy will hang on for dear life, as his director's chair will spring up in midair.

Enjoy a delightful Jolly Kiddie Meal of Regular Yum, Spaghetti Special, one-piece Chickenjoy, or one-piece Burger Steak with your children in any Jollibee store nationwide and take home the comical Looney Tunes characters as they spring to life.

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Editor Louie C. Camino

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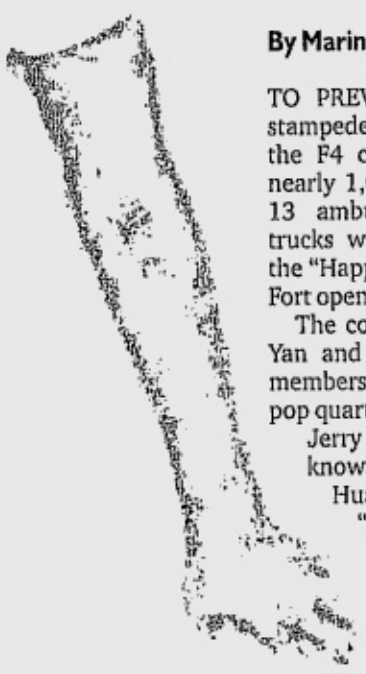
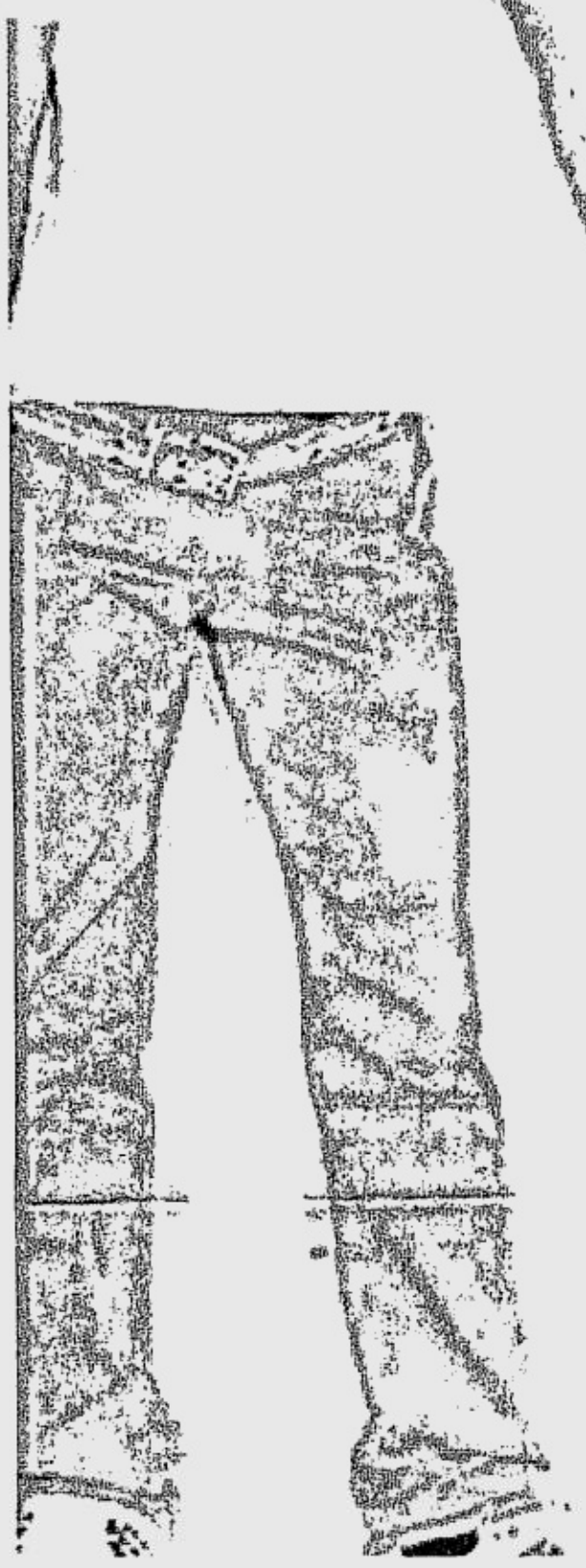




JERRY YAN, a.k.a. Dao Ming Si

By Marinel R. Cruz

TO PREVENT a repeat of the stampede that happened during the F4 concert last September, nearly 1,000 security personnel, 13 ambulances and five fire trucks will be deployed during the "Happy 50 TV" concert at the Fort open field tomorrow.

The concert will feature Jerry Yan and Vic Zhuo, two of the members of the wildly popular pop quartet.

Jerry and Vic, popularly known as Dao Ming Si and Hua Zei Lei of the hit series "Meteor Garden" on ABS-CBN, are the special guests in the network's "Happy 50 TV" concert that will start at 8 tomorrow night.

Their "Meteor Garden" costars Vaness Wu (Mei Zuo), Ken Zhu (Xi Men) and Barbie Xu (Shan Cai) performed last September in "The Event" at the Philsport football field in Pasig City, where eight people were injured in a stampede.

Barbie and Dee will join Jerry and Vic at the Fort show tomorrow.

A field hospital and 13 medical stations, manned by doctors and other medical personnel from the Department of Health, will be set up at the Fort, according to Cory Vidanes, ABS-CBN senior vice president for TV production.

The increased security for the one-night show is codenamed "Oplan Happy 50 TV," she said.

To secure the perimeter of the venue, about 120 container vans will be set up as a fence around the venue, instead of using galvanized metal sheets like the ones used during American singer Mariah Carey's concert last Nov. 18.

During Mariah's concert, about a hundred fans rushed to the general admission section of the venue, causing the makeshift fence to collapse. No one was reported hurt.

For tomorrow night, there will be 11 gates. Mariah's show had seven gates.

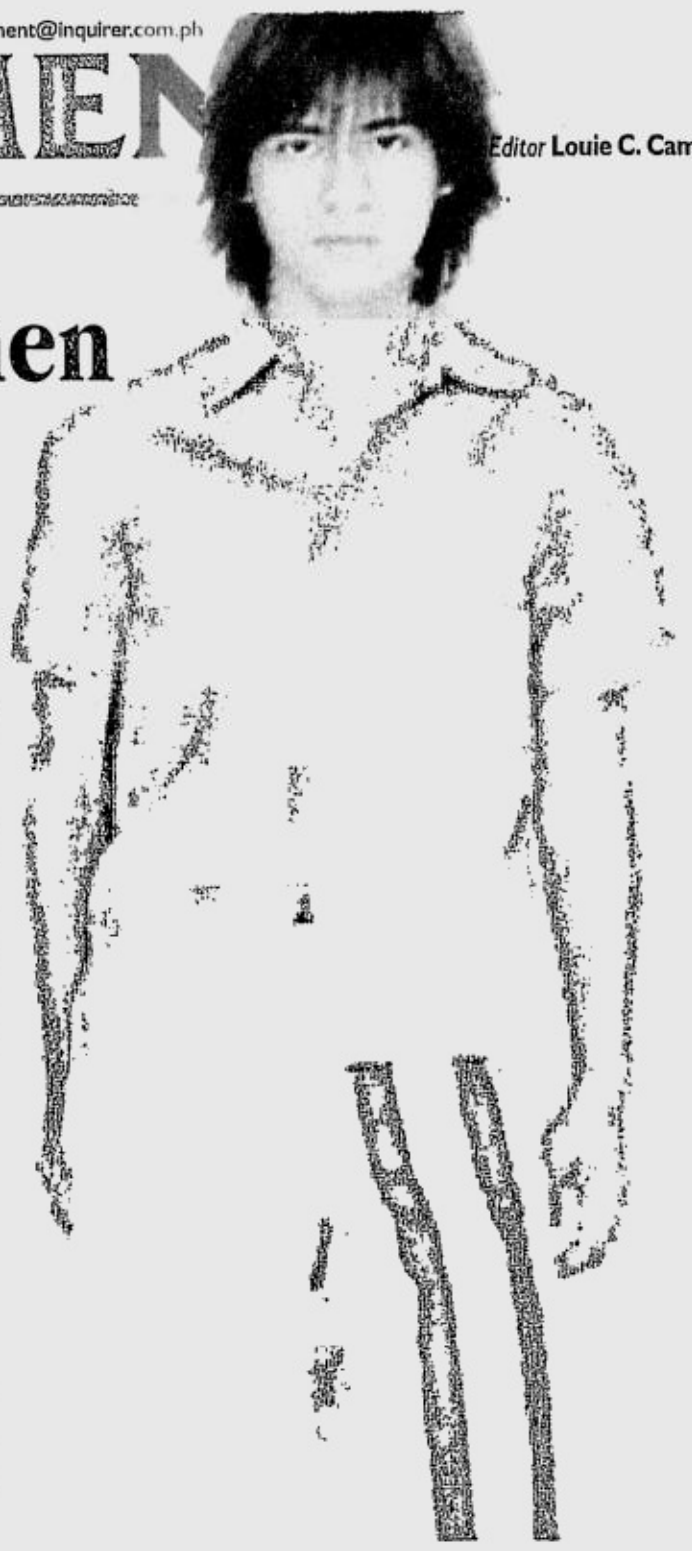
The gates will be opened to the public as early as 12 noon tomorrow. Video and still cameras and tape recorders will be confiscated at the gate, Vidanes told INQUIRER Entertainment.

The concert-goers can retrieve their cameras and recorders from depository booths after the show, she added.

Mineral water bottles and soft drink cans will be prohibited inside the venue.

Yan and Zhuo will be joined in the Fort show by local stars such as Ai-Ai de las Alas, The Hunks (Piolo Pascual, Jericho Rosales, Diether Ocampo, Carlo Agassi and Bernard Palanca), Vina Morales, Kristine Hermosa, Claudine Barretto, and love teams John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo, and John Prats and Heart Evangelista.

1,000/ C6



VIC ZHOU, a.k.a. Hua Zei Lei

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SOUL SEARCHING (URBANDUB)
Song of the Year

SA WAKAS (SUGAR FREE)
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directed by Pedring Lopez and Kiko Po
Best Music Video

PARNASO NG PAYASO (PAN)
design by Ulysses Veloso
Best Album Packaging

KEVIN ROY (RAZORBACK)
Vocalist of the Year

IRA CRUZ (KAPATID)
Guitarist of the Year

ROMMEL DELA CRUZ (BARBIE'S CRADLE)
Bassist of the Year

ALLAN BURDEOS (KAMIKAZEE)
Drummer of the Year

BARBIE'S CRADLE and ANGEE ROZUL for Playing in the Fields (BARBIE'S CRADLE)
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3:00 PM
RUFFA MAE QUINTO
4:00 PM
RANDY SANTIAGO
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SPECTACULAR FIREWORKS DISPLAY

NOV 29 SATURDAY
10:00AM-9:00PM
SEARCH FOR A STAR
3:00 PM
SUGARFREE
4:00 PM
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SM CITY MARILAO
Opens Nov 28

NOV 30 SUNDAY
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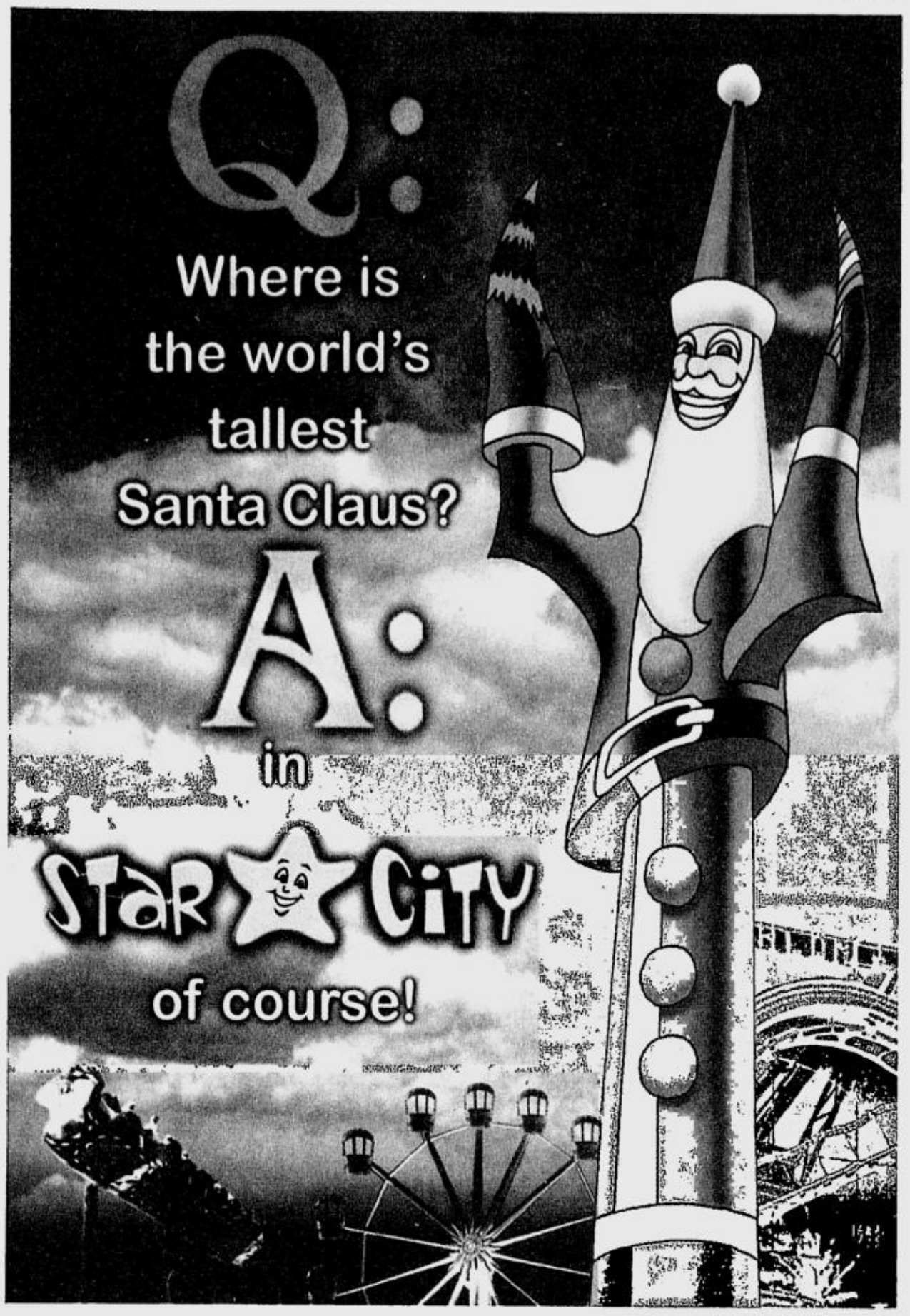

Party rooster, backyard pain and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: Who will be the presidential candidate of your party?

Guest: It's not yet official, but one thing for sure, he or she must come from the party rooster!

(What about the hen party?)

* * *

Host: So, **Cardinal Sin** has already retired. What is the significance of this?

Co-host: I think this will lead to big changes in policy, now that a new spiritual leader is now herding the Archdiocese of Manila.

(Herding the archdiocese's sheep?)

* * *

Host: What does your organization use for funds to finance your many charitable projects?

Guest: Mostly from donations, like in many senses we were able to get donated computers, and so forth.

(Exactly in how many senses can you receive donations?!)

* * *

Host: What is this new treatment good for? What kind of pain can it alleviate?

Guest: Oh, so many, like pain in your waist, or hip, or in your own backyard!

(And you're a pain in the posterior!)

* * *

Host: How can our local products and handicrafts make it big abroad, from your experience?

Guest: From my experience, we should be able to compete, not just in terms of quality, but also in terms of quality!

(Quality plus!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the capital of Italy?

Contestant: Milan!

(No, Rome.)

* * *

Quizmaster: Who was the actress who played the villain in the new "Charlie's Angels" movie?

Guest: **Paul McCartney**!

(No, **Demi Moore**. McCartney? *Ang layo!*)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Nagiging ganito ang tumitingin kay Medusa.* (The answer is a word that starts with the letter S.)

Contestant: *Satanismo!*

Contestant 2: Snake!

(No, stone!)

* * *

Quizmaster: Which group sang the hit song "Stop" and "Goodbye"?

Contestant: Spice Boys!

(No, *nasa* Congress *ang mga 'yon*. The correct answer is the Spice Girls! Do you have a problem with genders?)

'X-Files' series finale

THE FINALE of "The X-Files," "The Truth, Part 2," will be aired at 9 p.m. tonight on Studio 23. It features a return appearance by **David Duchovny**, and guest appearances by some of the series' notable characters—The Cigarette-Smoking Man, Alex Krycek and The Lone Gunman.

In the series' nine years on the tube, agents Mulder and Scully have investigated all sorts of cases, alien abduction, bile-eating mutants, shapeshifters, circus freaks, killer bees, killer twins, etc!

Cartoon Network fiesta

THE CARTOON Network is throwing a Mexican-style fiesta for its media friends at 6 p.m. today at Filipinas Heritage Library, Nielsen Tower, Makati Avenue.

'Lost for Words'

RONAN Keating has come out with his latest single, "Lost for Words," from his third studio album, "Turn It On." Ronan co-wrote the song with **Wayne Hector** and **David Frank**. The song is an infectious mid-tempo pop/rock track.

'Mannos Po'

NYOY Volante and Mannos will make the Yuletide season happier for children being helped by Caritas Manila with "Mannos Po," to be held on Dec. 7 at Star City.

Some 250 children will be treated to various rides, a *merienda* sponsored by Greenwich, and program featuring a magician, parlor games and a 30-minute performance by Nyoy and Mannos.

"Mannos Po" is a project of Nestle Kitkat.

If you want to participate in the gift-giving, you may donate clothes and toys or sign up as a volunteer by calling 533-3284 or logging on to www.nyoyvolantewith mannos.com (only 50 volunteers are needed).

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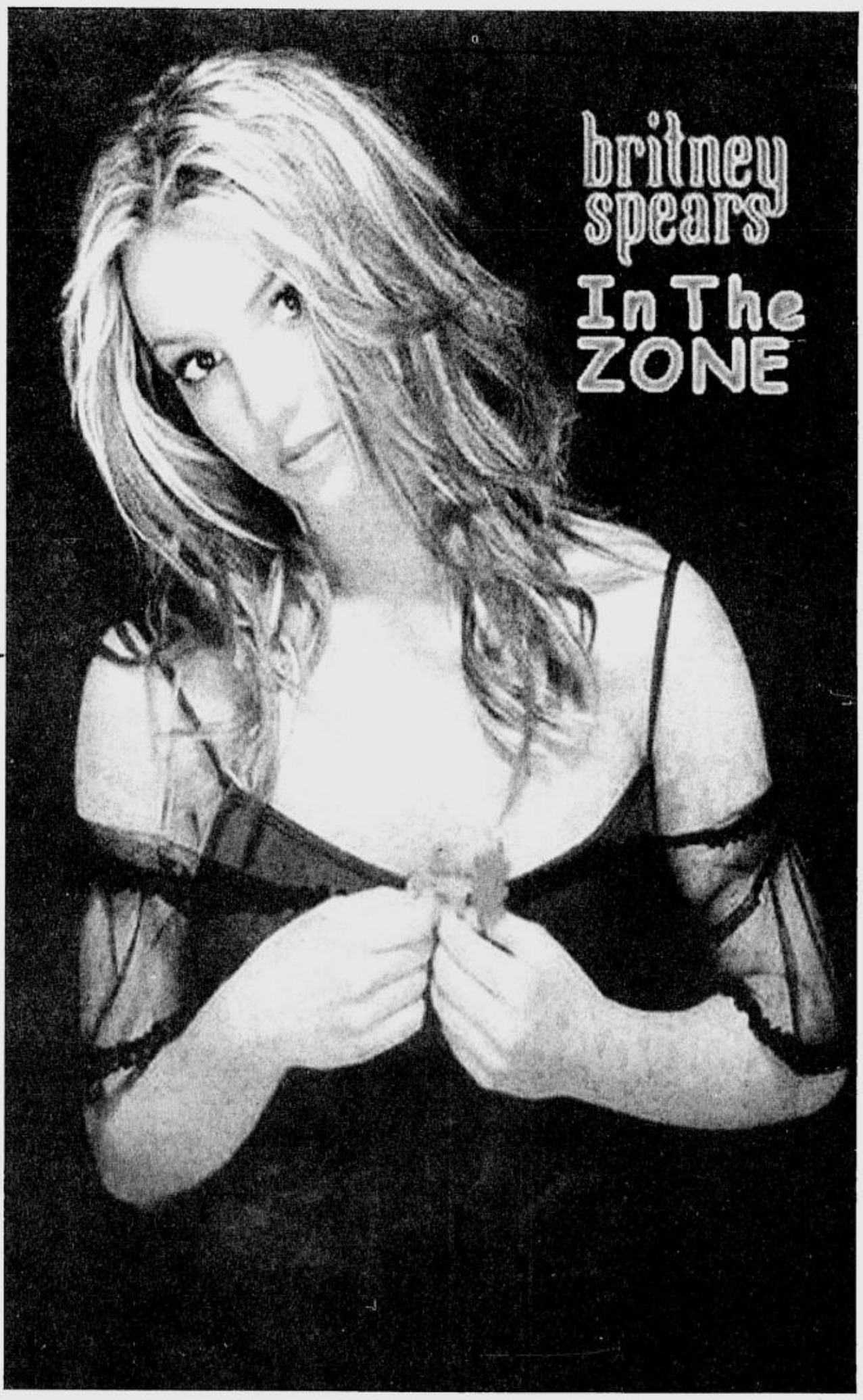

The big news, as only Bong Lapira can tell it

YESTERDAY

GRACIOUSLY, today's Lapira is ready to surrender to the young

"BEAST from the East" stays on the air.

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

FORMER news anchor Bong Lapira practically stole the show when ABS-CBN launched the documentary program, "Sa Mata ng Balita," which was shown last month. Lapira was part of the special, which featured stories and footages from various newscasters and their experiences with pivotal events.

Lapira came to the event in a wheelchair, later admitting that he was recovering from a stroke that struck him five years ago. He immediately reminisced about his "30 years in a monkey suit" with remarkable soundness and an entertaining wit that one wouldn't have expected from one of the more serious news figures in Philippine television.

"I feel ancient," Lapira laughed. "We didn't have equipment then. We didn't have computers. We didn't have videotape cameras, we had film cameras. They had to develop the film after covering the news.

"But we managed. We were the pioneers that didn't come from the broadcast journalism colleges. We had to learn as we worked, as we went along.

First tryout

"I used to be a deejay," he said, joking that his would-be boss Coco Trinidad nearly had a heart attack after Lapira's first tryout. He proceeded to mimic his own old vocal style, rhyming with an almost cartoony modulation that could have been a precursor to today's hyperactive pop station disc jockeys.

"Howdy doody, cats and chicks," he said, continuing into a new sentence with a rap-like staccato and using incomprehensible retro slang. He became understandable again, finishing with "Once again, we bring you hot puffs from the West! This is the Beast from the East!"

He recalled that Trinidad, stunned, immediately ordered, "Get him off the air!"

Lapira's radio job would eventually lead to TV opportunities in the early '60s. The Manila Times, the biggest newspaper during the period, would purchase a TV station with three studios ("small, smaller, and smallest").

"But it was backed by the strength of the Manila Times, that's why we had 'The Big News,'" he said. He attributed its success partly to the fact that it had been sandwiched between widely watched entertainment shows. Still, "The Big News" was winning both acclaim and awards for its innovations.

Image change

Lapira's appearance was slightly altered to project a certain image in the news show. He was told to grow his hair, because he "looked like a convict." He was told to wear glasses to make him look "more intelligent." He also needed to exude a look of concern, and he nailed it by thinking, "*Babayaran kaya ako ngayon*?"

"This was the time that ABS-CBN was still challenging Manila Broadcasting Co., which was in its golden era," he said. "They were pirating people from MBC. One day, I got a call from Jun Hizon, they were trying to get us, lock, stock and barrel." He and a few others from "The Big News" soon became part of the ABS-CBN family.

The lively Lapira cited the importance of TV news through the decades, noting that it has been a positive spur to the country's efforts toward economic and human development. "But we have always maintained that the newspapers will never take the place of

THE BIG/ C4

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See posters for details.

The big news, as only Bong Lapira can tell it

From page C3

TV," he said, joking again, "because you cannot start a fire with your TV sets."

The 1966 debut of "Newsbreak" on CBN 9 had Lapira partnered with another late-night news program anchor, Henry Halasan.

"I'm just happy with the advent of the MassCom course," said Lapira. "You see, we came from the University of Hard Knocks. Before, anything that was a special event was done in English. *Kaya* at home *na* at home *si* Henry *noon, kasi 'ispokening* dollars.' Reporting in Tagalog must have been his Calvary."

He fondly recalled the other talented professionals who contributed to his growth during that era: "One of my contemporaries was Chris de Vera, who was the greatest radio showman in captivity. But I was lucky because I was under the tutelage of, even at the time, top broadcasters like Frankie Evangelista, who was with dzRH, the flagship radio station of MBC."

Dong's idol

But martial law was declared, and soon, Lapira and several others would join the ranks of the unemployed. Lapira was tapped by then-President Marcos into translating decrees, since the renowned anchor excelled in both English and Filipino.

"I was given an assignment," he said simply. "I was an unwilling conscript."

He said he had to put together a staff that included Hizon and Evangelista. "Enough of emceeing," he told Evangelista in Filipino. "Let's do news."

"So that started all our problems," he deadpanned.

ABS-CBN vice president for news Dong Puno, who was also present during the docu launch, revealed that Lapira has always been one of his idols.

"We take for granted things like the teleprompter, because it's like you're looking at the camera and you're reading at the same time," said Puno. "These people had to develop the real talent of having the script before them, turning it page by page, and not making it look like they were reading. If you've ever been in that position, it's very difficult."

Puno himself was one of the undisputed young contestants who kept returning on Lapira's first TV program, the quiz show called "Key Word."

Political satire

When asked if he wants to have his own show again, Lapira hastily responded with a smile, "We're talking money?"

He paused and continued in a slightly, more serious manner, "I'd love to go back to television. The problem is, I may not have that concerned look again. I'd like to do a weekly show; it has to be a political, witty satire."

The punch line, according to the gabby veteran, has to be delivered using the typical news-reading format. For instance: "General Electric will not push through with the merger with Alitalia, because the subsequent corporate name will be 'Genitalia.'"

He currently enjoys life away from the limelight, tending to his bonsai and loving the company of his 12 grandchildren, with his wife Millie ("my secretary, cook and driver"). He waxed nostalgic about the highlights of his career, and even did impressions of the big blunders on live TV of colleagues he did not identify—all in the spirit of fun, of course.

He appreciates the discipline of the current gaggle of young newscasters. "The youth is better-trained and more competent," he said, adding a suggestion, "*Ang dagdagan lang nila ay ang* creative approach."

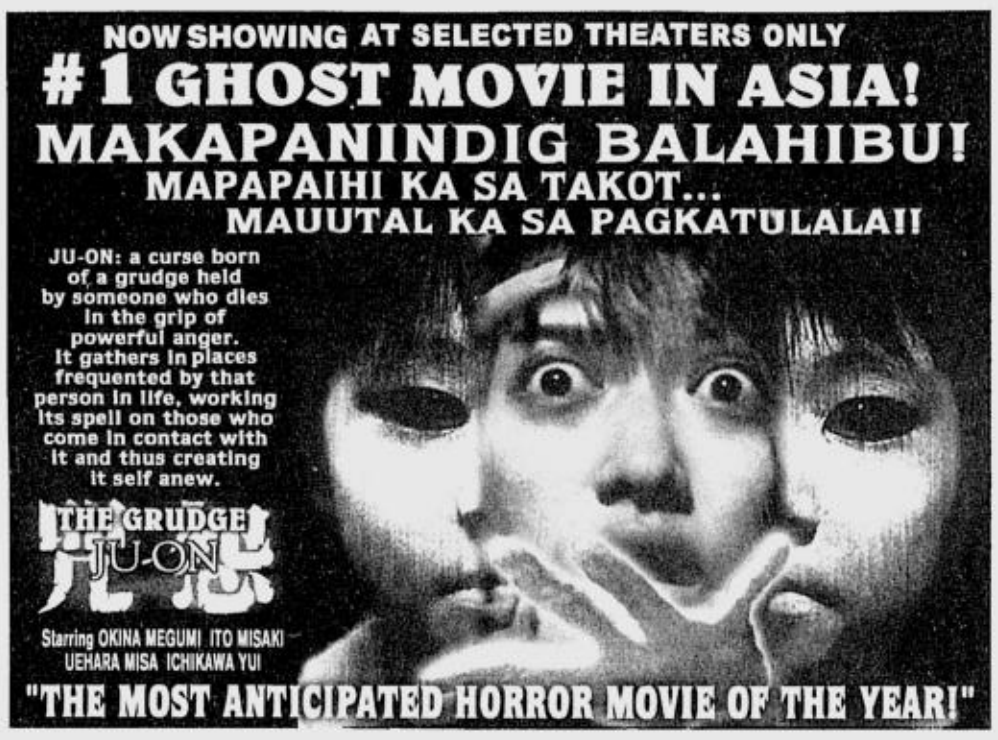
But he acknowledged the changing of the guard and conceded: "There comes a time when one must graciously surrender to what rightfully belongs to the young."

DID YOU KNOW...

Aga Muhlach and **Charlene Gonzales** dined at the Baguio Country Club coffee shop past midnight last Friday. The parents of 2-year-old twins **Atasha** and **Andres** were with **Edu Manzano** and others after ABS hosted a dinner at the Ad Congress. Charlene later sat on Aga's lap, unmindful of staring people.

DID YOU KNOW...

Ginebra San Miguel cager **Rommel Adducul**, who once went out on a movie date with **Kris Aquino**, was seen dining with a male friend at the Phoa Restaurant at the Alabang Town Center last Saturday night.



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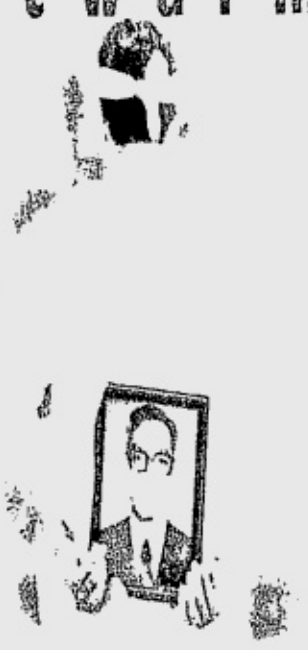

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CHIN

Taiwanese performs at PICC

FEI Yu Chin, dubbed as "King of the Golden Voice" in Taiwan, performs in the concert "Fei Yu Chin Live in Manila" at the Philippine International Convention Center on Dec. 12-13 at 8:30 p.m.

Fei is expected to arrive in Manila today.

This year alone, Fei has already performed in seven solo concerts in Taiwan, two at the Michigan Sun Arena and another at the luxurious Orleans Arena in Las Vegas. He also delighted music fans in sold-out shows in Singapore, Shanghai and Macau.

Fei has been named as one of Asia's top singers for five straight years and was a sensation at the 200 Asian Film Festival in Vietnam. He has also recorded 35 solo albums.

"I'm excited to perform before a Philippine audience," said Fei, whose songs are mostly romantic ballads.

Tickets to "Fei Yu Chin Live in Manila" can be purchased at TicketWorld (891-5610 or 641-5388).

The concert is being promoted by Regent Entertainment.

Show Time

Beyblade contests at SM

THE NEXT Beyblade High-Speed Challenge Magnetic tournaments will be held tomorrow, Nov. 29, 2-4 p.m., at Toy Kingdom SM Megamall, and on Dec. 6 at Toy Kingdom SM Southmall.

The Beyblade National Championship will be on Dec. 28 at the Shangri-la Plaza.

Entries are limited to the Magnetic System with five official parts: bit chip, attack ring, weight disc, spin gear, and blade base. Only Beyblade models sold in the Philippines with their corresponding boxes with Medialink stickers, D-Rights logo and Magnetic System label will be allowed to join.

Participants may register only up to three Beyblade models, with each entry in its original form and structure.

For more information, call Beyblade at 373-9600, or e-mail marketing@bankee.com.ph

1,000 security men...

From page C1

Star Cinema's blockbuster movie "Ang Tanging Ina" will be shown on the nine video walls at the concert site.

About 60 concessionaires will be selling snacks and refreshments. About 80 portable toilets will also be set up around the concert venue.

Jerry and Vic will arrive in Manila tomorrow morning. Barbie and Dee are expected to fly in from Taiwan today.

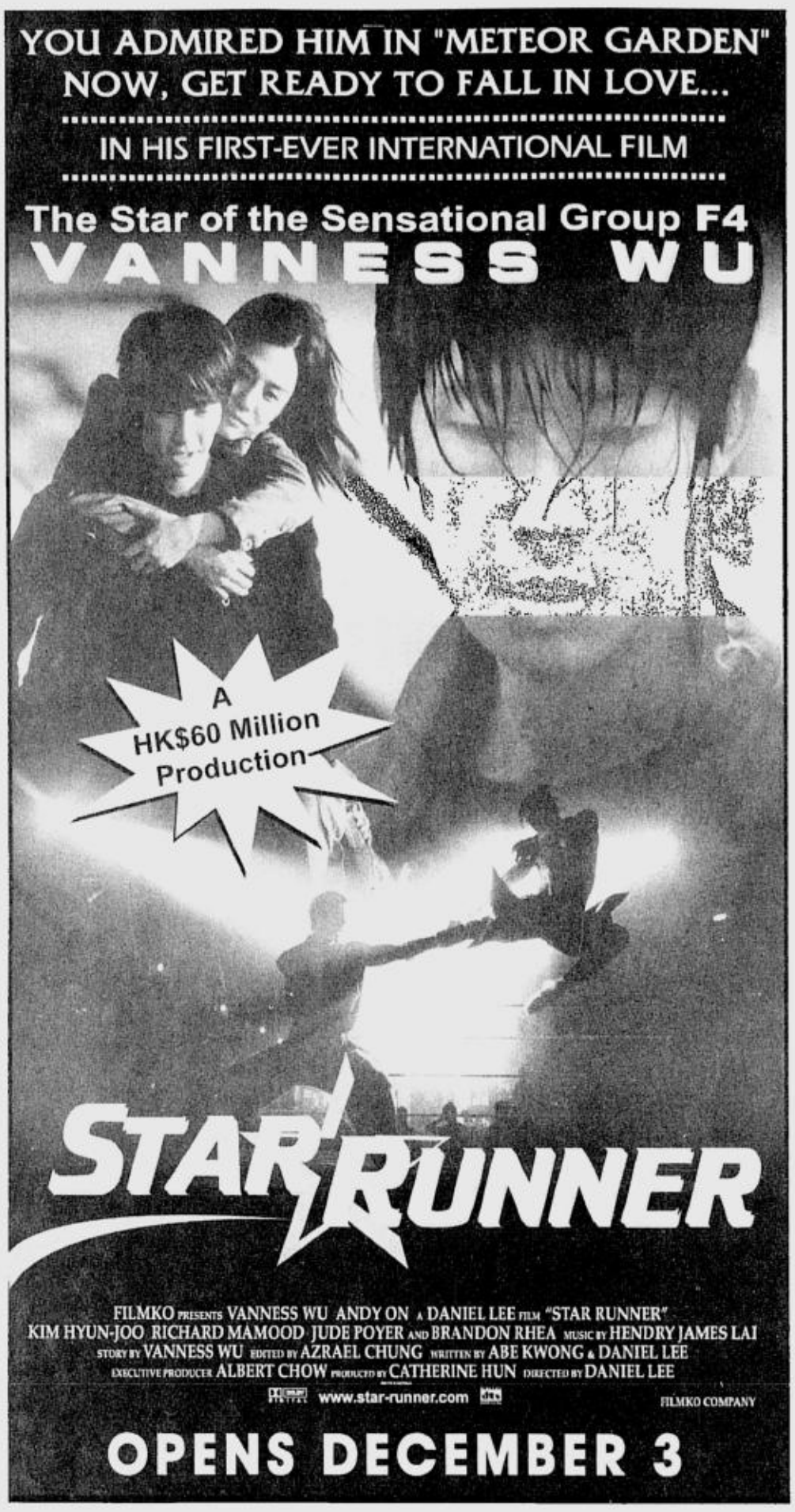
Yan has also been hired by Philippine clothes magnate Ben Chan to be the newest image model of the Bench label. In his native Taiwan, Yan was a part-time commercial model.

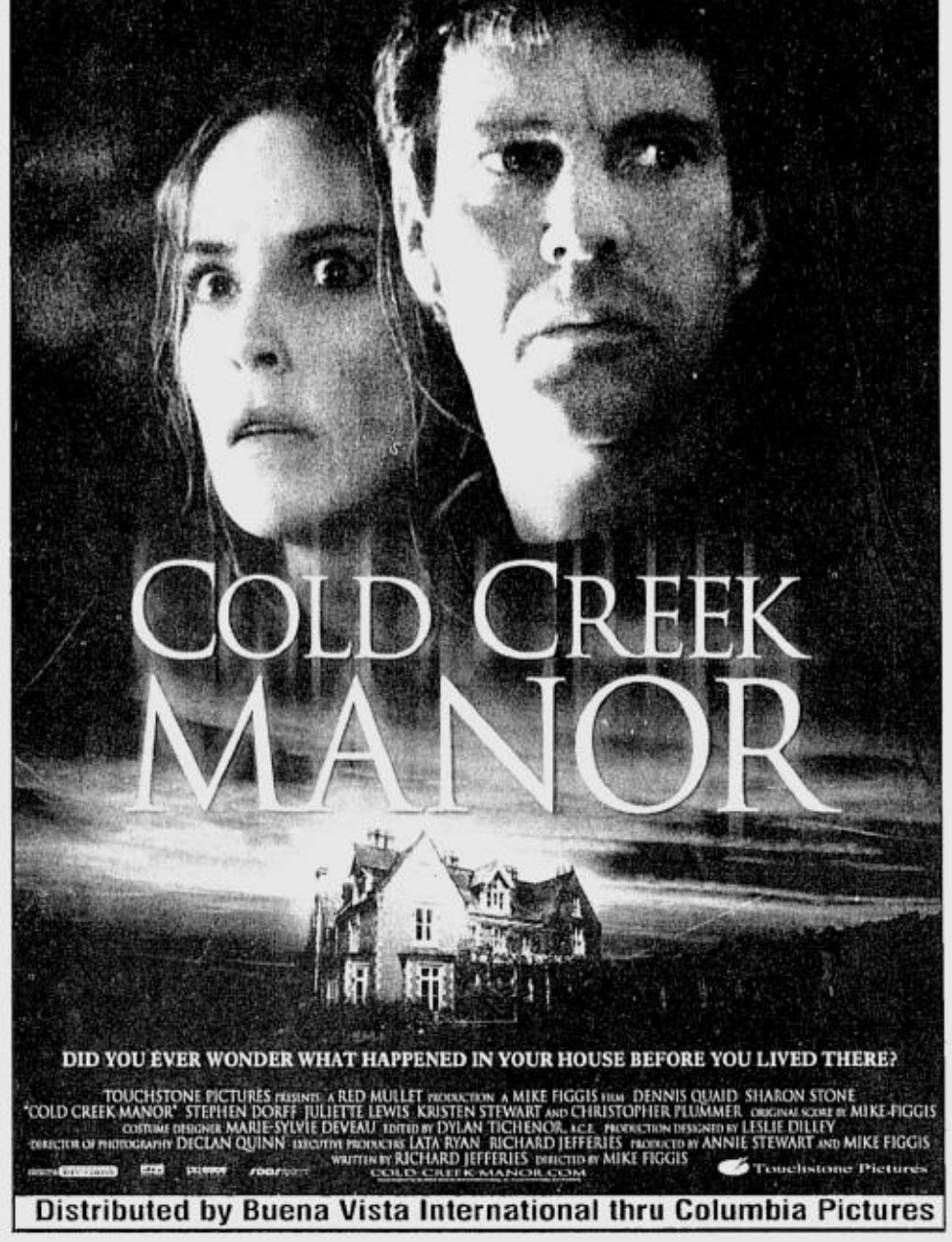
Zhou is also known by his Chinese name Zhou Yu Min, or his pet name Zai Zai. At 20, he is considered the baby of F4.

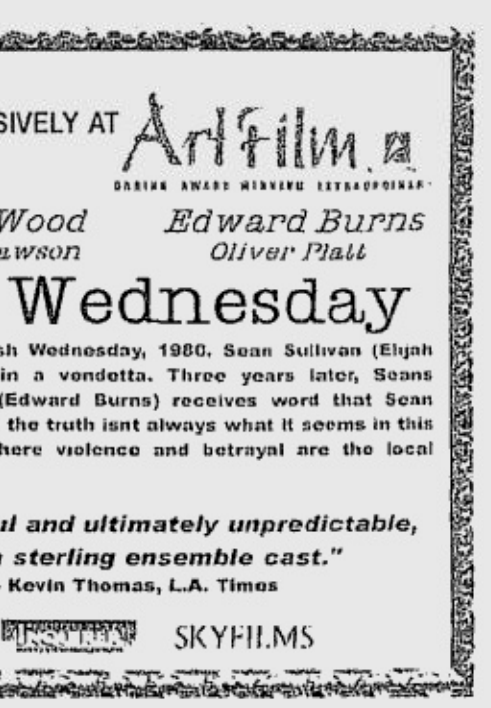
He is the quiet one among the boys of "Meteor Garden" and is actually shy in real life.

Zhou earned a degree in mechanical engineering from the Lotung Industrial and Commercial Vocational High School and is currently attending night classes in business management at the Chung Kuo Institute of Technology.

He has already four drama shows to his credit: "Meteor Garden," "Meteor Rain," "Poor Prince" and "Come to My Place."







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ENTERTAINMENT

Liz convinced Jacko innocent

LOS ANGELES—Actress Elizabeth Taylor said on Sunday she believes pop star and good friend Michael Jackson is "absolutely innocent" of child molestation charges and will be "vindicated."

In a statement, Taylor also criticized the press for behaving "abominably" toward the self-styled King of Pop, who was arrested this week on suspicion of sexually abusing a young boy.

"Their whole reaction is that he is guilty," she said of the press. "I thought the law was 'innocent until proven guilty.' I know he is innocent and I hope they all eat crow."

The veteran actress, who flew to Singapore to lend support to Jackson on tour when he was last accused of child molestation a decade ago, said she would not be giving interviews to the media because of the way they have treated Jackson.

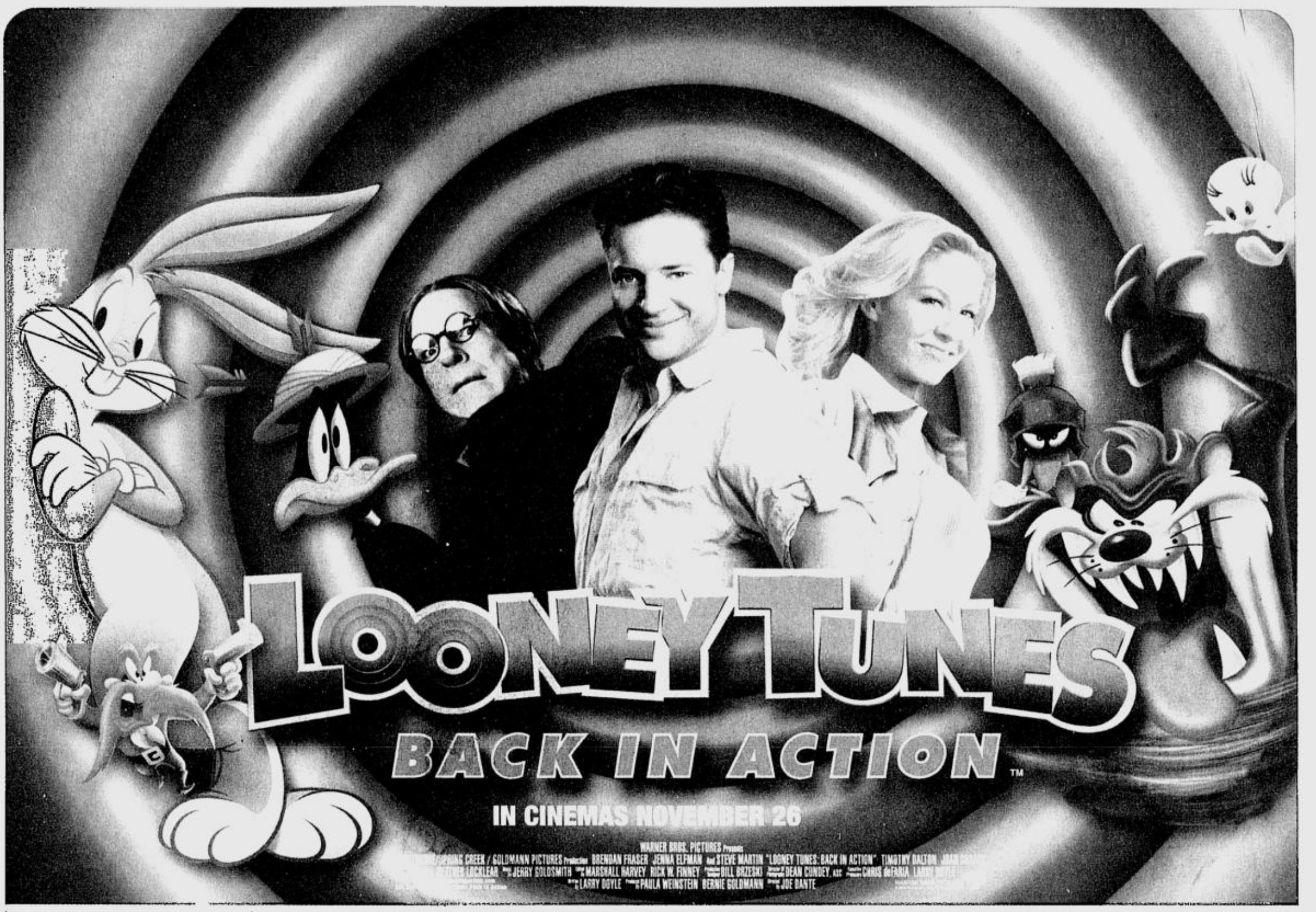
"I believe Michael is absolutely innocent and that he will be vindicated," she said in her statement.

It was her first public comment on the charges since some 60 police officers stormed Jackson's Neverland Valley Ranch in the hills above Santa Barbara on Tuesday, looking for evidence to substantiate the allegations of an unidentified young boy.

Jackson has said the allegations are outrageous lies and predicted he would be cleared.

Jackson was whisked from Las Vegas to California and back just long enough to surrender to the police, hand in his passport and post $3 million bail on Thursday. He was due in court for an arraignment on Jan. 9.

Prosecutors have said Jackson will be charged under a California law that defines molestation as "arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions or sexual desires of" the offender or a child under age. The charge carries a penalty of three to eight years in prison. *Reuters*



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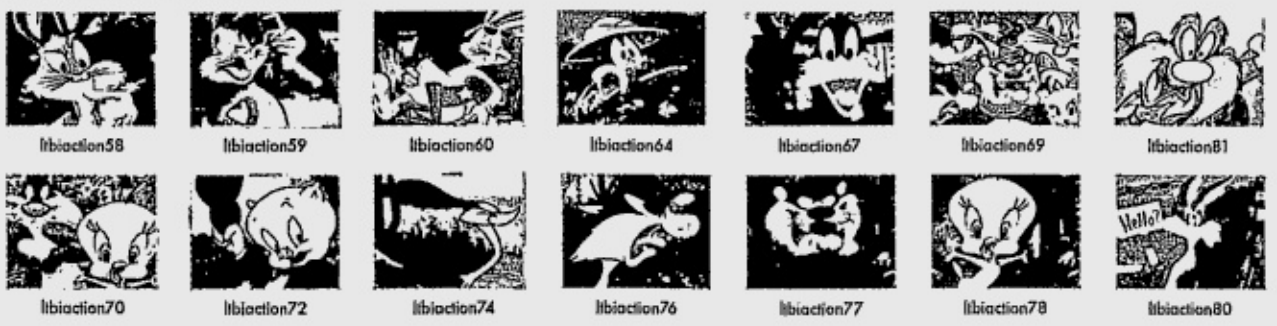

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Trend Spotting

LIFESTYLE

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For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

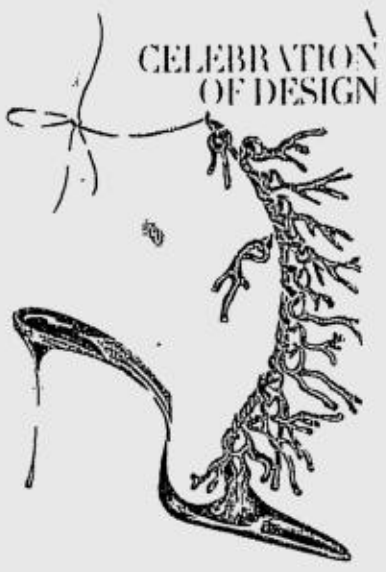
Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

In this issue

Iconic fashion label opens first store in Manila /E1

Sexiest shoes in the city /J1

manolo blahnik... the shoe



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Please inquire at *888 or 888-1111 for venues and dates of mall blitzes.

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Comfy and affordable sofa beds

MI Casa red sofa...

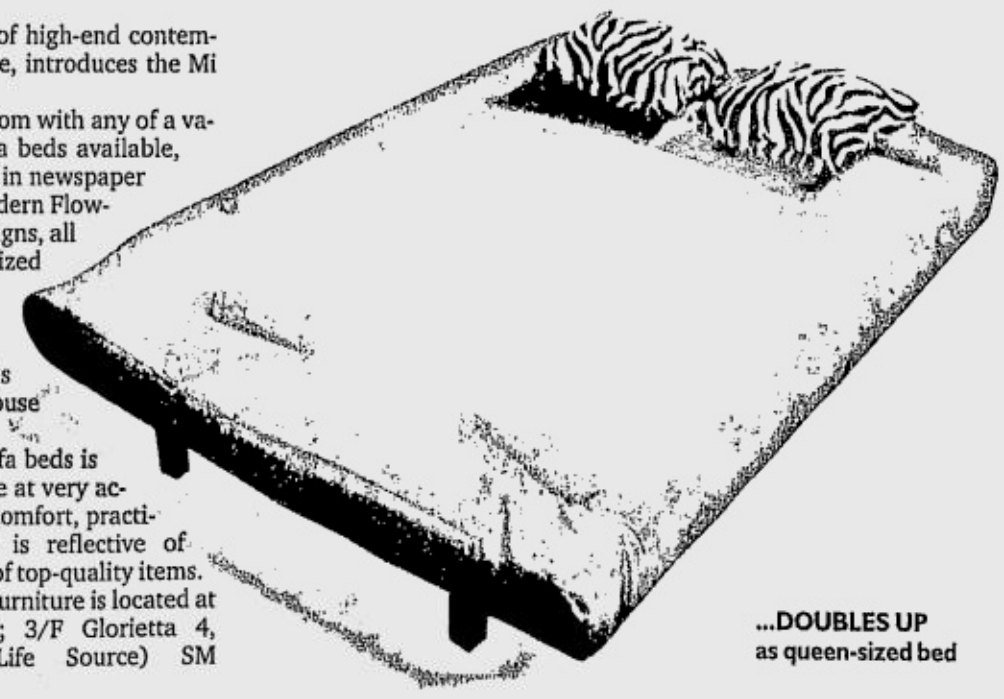
DECOR, a leading store of high-end contemporary imported furniture, introduces the Mi Casa line of sofa beds.

Spice up your living room with any of a variety of space-saving sofa beds available, from New York sofa beds in newspaper and zebra patterns to Modern Flower and Spring Flower designs, all convertible to queen-sized beds.

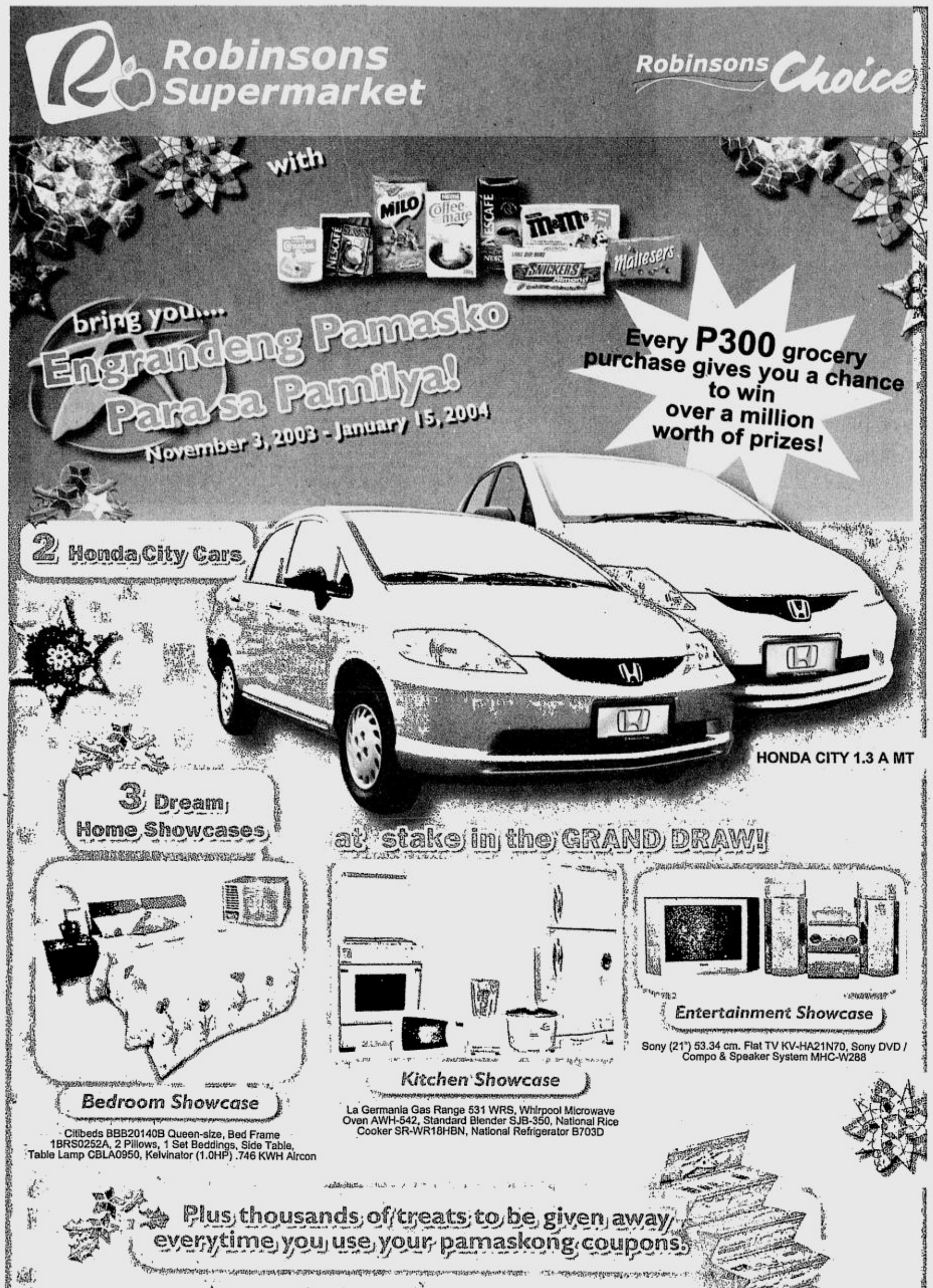
The Vegas sofa bed, on the other hand, is ideal for studio-type pads and as extra beds for house guests.

The Mi Casa line of sofa beds is Asian-made and available at very accessible prices. Its style, comfort, practicality and affordability is reflective of Decor's careful selection of top-quality items.

Decor Contemporary Furniture is located at 14 Araneta Ave., Q.C.; 3/F Glorietta 4, Makati; and 4/F (Life Source) SM Megamall B.



...DOUBLES UP as queen-sized bed

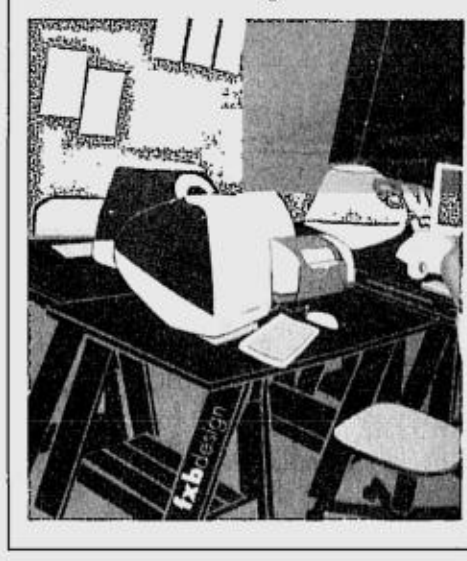


Design studio wins awards

FXB Design Studio recently received awards for Best in Logo Design and Best in Environmental Graphics for Sketchbooks as well as Best Poster Design for Bibliarch. It also reaped honors in the first Comm Design Central Awards.

Blame the colorful, campy and chic corporate imaging phenomenon to Lorraine Meñez-Obusan and Kara Tolentino. Count Bibliarch, Fully Booked, Press Café, Sketchbooks, Gourdo's, Rustan's YVIP and the newly-revamped look of Essenses, and the Linea Italia Group as among those who have lent their brand names, icons and trademarks into FXB Design Studio's palette of Philippine pop culture, street graphics and visually arresting prints and hues.

"There are really two sides to our work: serious and fun. But since designing is really more like play for us, you'll see that in everything we do, there's always the elements of youth, style and hip factor," explains Kara Tolentino, FXB Design Studio's marketing head.



Housewarming gift ideas

GIVE something useful and practical as a housewarming gift. Orocan offers several gift ideas to give to new homeowners or apartment dwellers—trolley, laundry rack, rice gard and dish gard, among others .

The Orocan Trolley is a good space saver, providing three layers of well-ventilated baskets on a sturdy frame and with casters to allow mobility. It is ideal for keeping baby things handy like cologne, soap, shampoo, powder and a pack of cloth diapers. In the kitchen, it can hold fruits, veggies or condiments. The baskets will keep perishables fresher for a longer period. The trolley can also hold items for hobbies or be used as a rolling food service as the flat and sturdy bottom can carry bottles and glasses.

The Orocan Laundry Rack is one versatile container for both clothes and laundry needs. The fixed tray on top can hold detergents and laundry accessories while clothes are put in the detachable hamper.

To maintain the tradition of giving essentials as housewarming gifts, why not fill an Orocan Rice Gard with rice? The rice gard can hold up to 10 kilos of rice and measures how much grain is needed for cooking.

It has lightweight features to make it easy to move it around.

The Orocan Dish Gard has a tightly sealed domed top large enough even for huge plastic plates and thick microwave-able dishes. It keeps away insects and other pests.

OROCAN'S utility items: laundry rack, dish gard, trolley and rice gard

color fashion

M.S. Kris Aquino

First Quadrant

Quarter Date: "Race to the Top"

Truly a date to remember... First Quadrant Philippines Incorporated celebrated its Quarter Date Product and Catalogue Launch: "Race to the Top!" on October 8, 2003.

The event underscored the most progressive multi-level company's commitment—to offer people the opportunity to achieve success and realize their fondest dreams. First Quadrant Philippines operates branches in Davao City and Cebu City. Its main office is based in Ortigas Avenue, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Hotel Intercontinental was jam packed with more than a thousand FQPI members who attended the launching of the latest FQPI Catalogue ---- "Holiday Collection", all 170 pages featuring 33 First Quadrant products. Twelve new product lines were introduced, among them D' Color Fashion Cosmetics, Jewels Genuine Elegant Collections, Refresh hand sanitizers and facial scrubs, Ninna Jeans, Barbie bags and dresses for kids, Aziza ladies shoes and bags, Four Seasons and Antonio Roque shoes for ladies, Suriya Spa, Skin Private Joyce Skin Care Collection, First Quadrant Health Products, and the first-ever all-purpose First Quadrant Credit Card.

Eight exemplary business associates were recognized. The champions eagerly shared their success stories. The list included Atty. Filomeno Arteche III, Ms. Melanie Balberan, Ms. Cherry-Lyn Bunao, Captain Ronald Clemente, Dr. Allan Hernandez, Mr. Robert Rances Jr., Ms. Dolores Tuazon, and Mr. Carlos Urgino.

The enchanted evening was hosted by Mr. Richard Reynoso. Marikina City Mayor Marides C. Fernando and Congressman Del De Guzman graced the occasion. Secretary Mike Defensor, who inspired the audience with his remarks, came together with his lovely wife and FQPI's Managing Director, Ms. Julie T. Defensor. Star celebrities illuminated the hotel: A group of fiery youths known as the Ablaze Dancers revved up the celebration. Ms. Joyce Jimenez stirred the crowd as she introduced her own Skin Private Joyce beauty products. Soul diva Jaya completed the night's program with a flawless, heart-thumping performance.

The occasion also highlighted the unveiling ceremony and launching of First Quadrant's D' Color Fashion Cosmetics by Ms. Doyee T. Tumpalan, FQPI President, and Ms. Kris Aquino as product endorser. The contract signing took place a week before the event and was witnessed by brand managers Rubi Esteves and Elizabeth Isidro, together with the Creative Director of Calypso Color, Benn Almazar, and EVP-GM of Mind Matter Attitude (MMA) Media, Inc., Gigi Mendoza-Admana. The artistic photos of Ms. Doyee Tumpalan and Ms. Kris Aquino were taken by celebrity photographer Jun De Leon.

FQPI President Doyee T. Tumpalan expressed her heart-felt admiration to the business associates. She said "Kasipagan, pagtitiyaga, pagtutulungan, pagmamalasakit, pakikipagkapwa, pagtitiwala sa sarili at sa Diyos.... Ang mga ito ang naging puhunan ninyo upang magtagumpay!" FQPI Chairman Socrates Tumpalan underscored a challenge: " Ang magandang pagkakataon ay nasa inyong mga kamay. First Quadrant Philippines, Inc. is here to help you realize your dreams. Our advantage... WE HAVE EACH OTHER!"

First Quadrant Philippines Inc.'s " October 8, Quarter Date Product and Catalogue Launch: RACE TO THE TOP!" was a production of MMA Media Inc. – Fusion of Vision and Reality.

Ms. Doyee T. Tumpalan and Marikina Mayor Marides C. Fernando

Ms. Doyee T. Tumpalan and D' Color endorser Ms. Kris Aquino

Mayor Fernando and Mr. Dolorfino Tactacan

Chairman Socrates Tumpalan

Business Associates Champions

Cong. Del De Guzman with Chairman Soc and Children Patita and Lance

Contract Signing D' Color Fashion Cosmetics

Mr. Richard Reynoso

Ms. Doyee T. Tumpalan and Ms. Joyce Jimenez

Ms. Doyee T. Tumpalan and Mr. Jun De Leon

Secretary Mike Defensor Chairman, HUDCC

Ms. Julie T. Defensor and son Mico

The Chairman and the President

Business Associates Champions

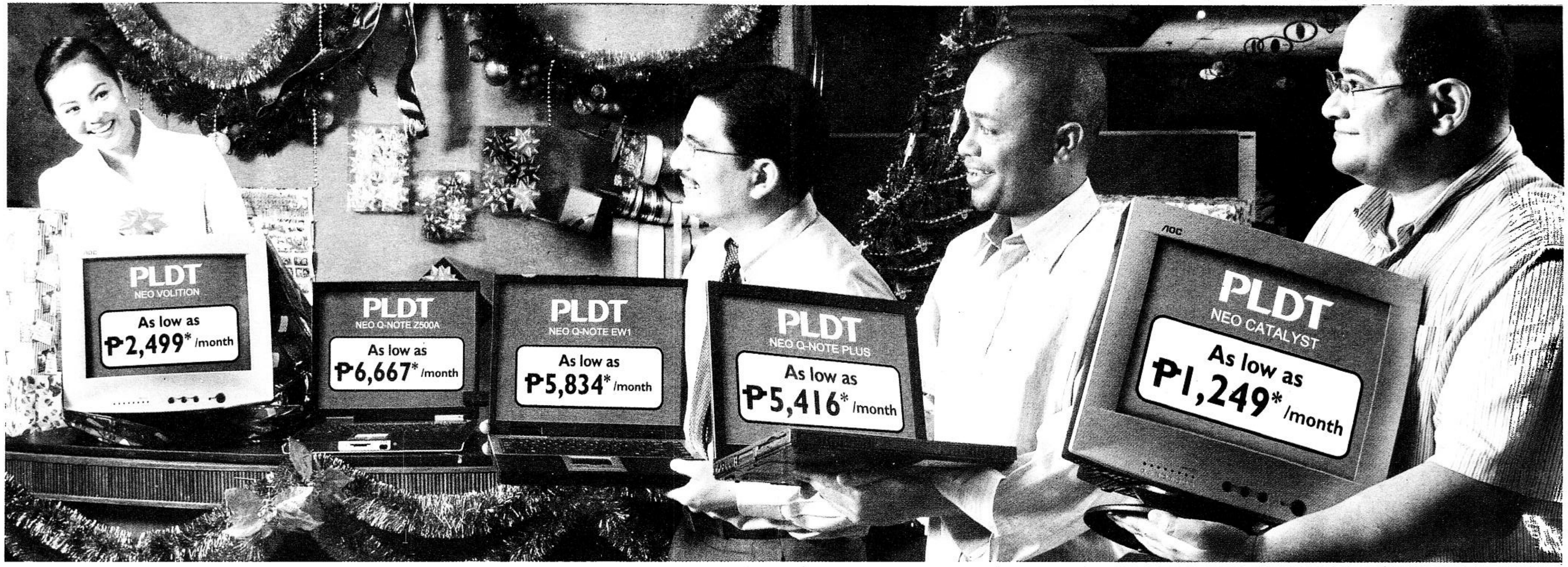
JAYA

ABLAZE Dancers

MANILA
HEAD OFFICE
First Quadrant Corporate Center
Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan,
Metro Manila
Tel Nos.: (632) 721-4053, 721-4114
721-6110, 721-4065

DAVAO
First Quadrant Corporate Center
Canchu Building (Infront of Grand Men Seng Hotel)
corner A. Pichon, Legaspi Street, Davao City
Tel No.: (082) 222-9030,

CEBU
2nd and 3rd Floors, Benigno V. Du Bldg.,
(Infront of Cebu Midtown Hotel)
Fuente Osmeña, Cebu City



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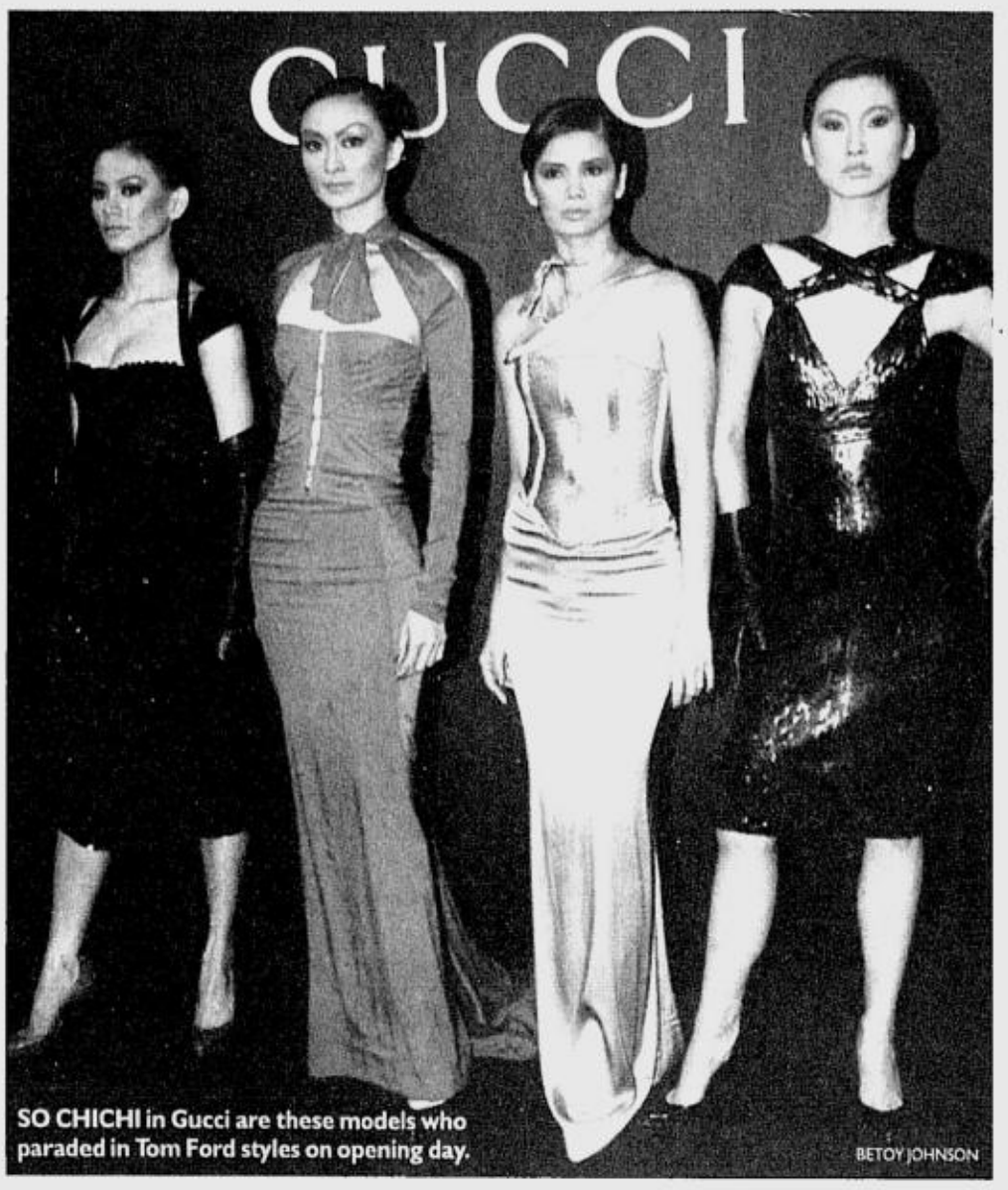
or visit www.pldtdsl.com or www.pldtvibe.com. See leaflets for details. Promo runs until December 31, 2003. Approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1782, Series of 2003.



SO CHICHI in Gucci are these models who paraded in Tom Ford styles on opening day. BETOY JOHNSON

Iconic, sensual and luxurious

The first Gucci store in Manila exudes the Tom Ford design philosophy: sleek, sexy and exciting

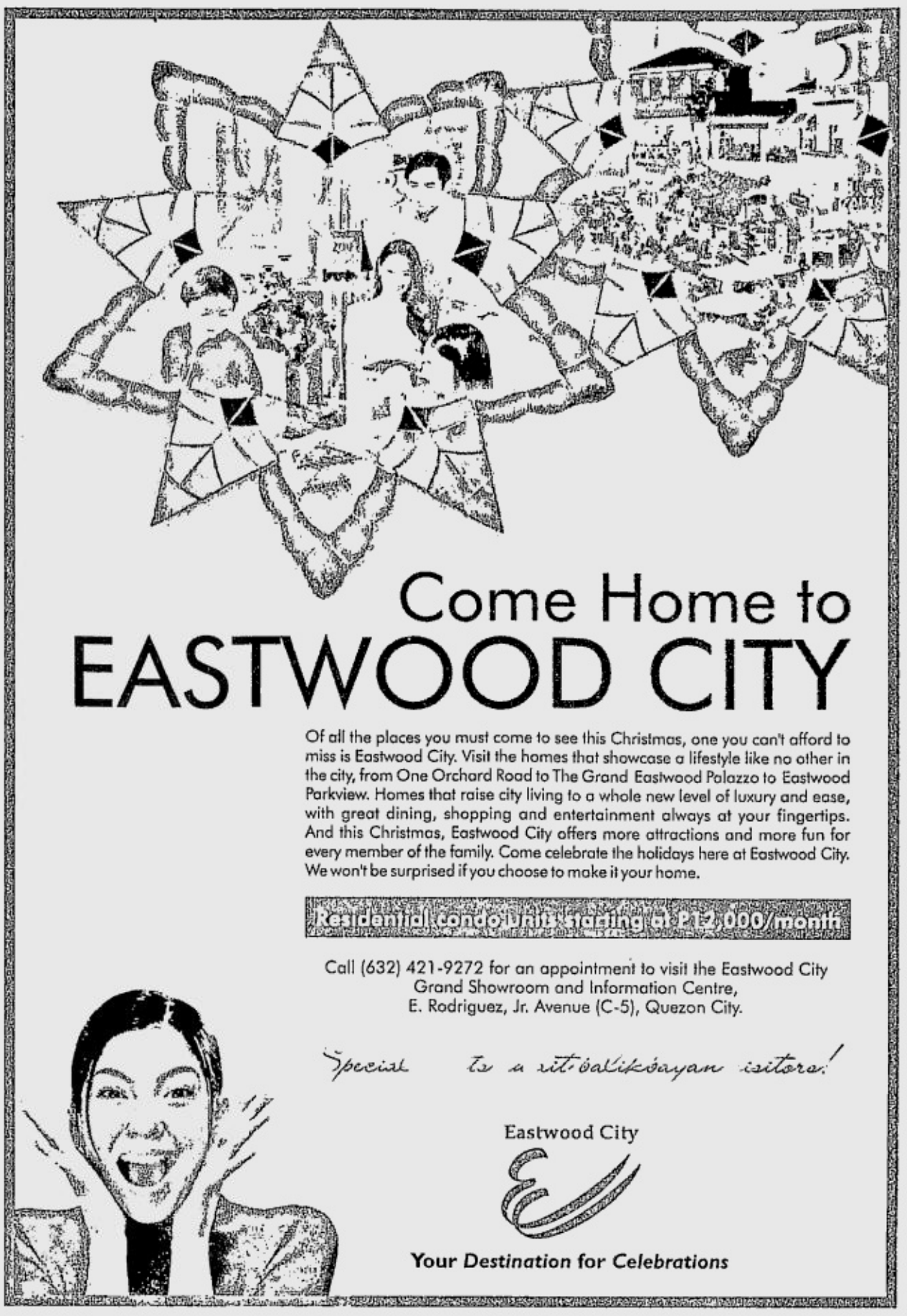
AFTER seven years of draught, luxury goods from Gucci are available here again because Store Specialist CEO Anton Huang successfully talked Gucci Group CEO Domenico de Sole into opening the first Gucci store on a 272-sq-m space at Greenbelt 4 in Makati.

De Sole himself came for the store opening festivities, accompanied by his American wife Eleanor. Sorely missed was Tom Ford, the gorgeous creative director of Gucci and designer

ICONIC/ E3

THIS handbag with large gold horsebit clasps and small nail details is a bestseller.

DOMENICO de Sole, president, CEO and chair of management board of Gucci Group; Nedy Tantoco, president, Stores Specialists Inc. and Rustan's Marketing Corp.; and Eleanor de Sole.



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DON Jaime Zobel de Ayala with Anton Huang, EVP, Stores Specialists Inc.

STORES Specialists Inc. president Nedy Tantoco flanked by two Antons, Anton Mendoza and Anton San Diego

JAIME Augusto Zobel de Ayala; Domenico de Sole, president, CEO and chair of the management board, Gucci Group; Eleanor de Sole and Fernando Zobel de Ayala

FASHIONABLE ladies. Apple Lichauco with mother-in-law Baby Fernando

POWER namedroppables Irene Martel-Francisco and Sander Tantoco

Feeling chichi at Gucci

LEICA Carpo, Amanda Carpo, Malou Gamboa, Sandy Romualdez and Kitty Jacinto

THE NEW guards of media. Dennis Valdes chatting with Jeena and Ernie Lopez

WINE royal Bobbie Joseph, glam gal Vicky Zubiri, *moi* and *mi amiga* Bambi Harper

TYCOONS of today. Tito Yuchengco and his wife Marit, with Maloy and Giully Luchangco

COSMO MANILLE had another busy and exciting night with the grand whopper of an opening for everyone's favorite, Gucci. The Milan fashion powerhouse opened its super eye-catching store in the country recently.

Although 300 super-elegant chosen guests were invited and showed up, it seemed the number doubled once they got inside Greenbelt 4. The hotshots of style and other concerns were comparable to the sophistication the brand is renowned for.

Upon entry into the arcade, the namedroppables were called by name. They did not have to register, unlike in other events.

From there, pretty and handsome ushers dressed in elegant trademark black showed us to an impeccable array of black logo dresses and black pants for women with skinny legs, fat legs, gorgeous legs, and even legs that should have stayed home.

Surprisingly nearly everyone, camera shy or not, stopped to pose for photographs with the wardrobe.

Especially chosen Gucci music played in the background of an especially designated level and added to the mystique of what was to come.

Making a grand entrance were no less than birthday celebrator, Makati Mayor **Jejomar Binay** and his wife, **Elenita**, who breezed in fashionably on time, along with the *tres charmante* Ambassador **Renee Veyret** of France.

The Ayalas came in full Zobel force, led by Don **Jaime Zobel**, who had just jetted in from Soto Gande in the south of Spain. He was with his heirs to the throne, a slimmer, handsome **Fernando Z.** with his wife **Kit Silverio**, and dashing **Jaime Augusto** with his lady **Lizzie**. They arrived with a slew from the diplomatic corps.

The man of the moment, **Domenico de Sole**, Gucci's hot chairman and CEO, jetted in for the grand event with his wife, adorable Southern American beauty **Eleanor**.

Gucci's partners in the Philippines, the popular Stores Specialists Inc., led by Manille's successful businesswoman and hostess with the mostest, **Nedy Tantoco**, and her son, **Anton Huang**, left no stone unturned in producing the fashion first.

An almost obsessive attention to detail was shown by the Asia Pacific team of Gucci, led by the group's president, **Mimi Pun**, and **Celina Ma**, **Perry Mak** and **Dennis Phang** . Top fashion choreographer **Jackie Aquino** and the organizing team from Stores Specialists made sure everything was in place.

Glamour raid

The glitz set was at total ease, lounging on the very comfortable modern sofas, while they nibbled on Gucci-designed canapes excellently prepared and catered by Peninsula Manila, and sipping their choice drink of champagne, wine or vodka from Gucci's very own designed bar.

They were served by black-clad waiters running from the makeshift kitchen with trays loaded with hors d'oeuvres of mmm eclair with beluga caviar and quail egg; pepper cruster tuna markis; and terrine of foie gras with toasted brioche and dried fig.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** on **Kodak Max**

The raspberry ice cream truffles, strawberry squares and lemon chiffon pie were calorifically sinful.

Naturellement, the service schedule for the cocktail-finger food was planned and approved by Gucci, making for a perfect combination of tasters and timing.

Hot politicos present were Sen. **Tessie Aquino-Oreta**; **Tony Leviste** with his daughter, equestrianne champ **Toni**; Rep.**Cynthia Villar** , escorted by her son **Mark**; and Manila Councilor **Kim Atienza** and his wife **Felicia**.

Making their presence felt in the chi-chi opening were Peninsula's beautiful first couple, dashing **David Batchelor** and his wife, chic dresser **Marilu Toda**; **Greggy Araneta** and fashionable **Irene Marcos**; **Bombay** and **Baby Araneta**; and **Tito** and **Marit Yuchengco**.

Also present were the INQUIRER's **Sandy Prieto Romualdez** and **Dennis Valdes**; the Star's **Kevin Belmonte**; Summit Publishing's **Lisa Gokongwei Cheung**; Metro Magazine's and ABC-CBN Publishing's **Ernie Lopez** and his wife **Jeena**; Philippine Tatler's **Irene Francisco**; and businessman **Raul Manzano**.

You don't get to be media's most powerful personalities without attending socials, dahlings.

Conceived by Gucci's fantastic creative director **Tom Ford** and architect **William Sofield**, the new Gucci store is a seamless architectural interpretation of Ford's fab designs for clothing and accessories in a red, cool, and eye-catching space.

"We wanted the store to incorporate a number of sensual experiences you feel when you walk into a great space," Tom Ford was quoted as saying by Gucci officials. "At the same time, it had to have the luxury of a sleek modern residence, so you feel completely enveloped and relaxed."

Ayala Land's **Francisco Licuanan** and **Miriam Katigbak** were there, no doubt proud of the latest addition to the Ayala Land famille of commercial shops, natch!

Looking absolutely divine in their outfits were **Nina Huang**; **Catherine Huang**, the new miss on the block who parties discreetly; **Crickette Tantoco**, whom I hailed as the chicest princess of the scene; **Miriam Quiambao**, **Rissa Samson**, **Mike Huang**, **Anton San Diego**, **Robbie Mananquil** and **Tim Yap**—all of them in, wow, total Gucci look.

With booze flowing and great sounds playing non-stop, the party went on and on, way past Cinderella's bedtime, *palanggas*.

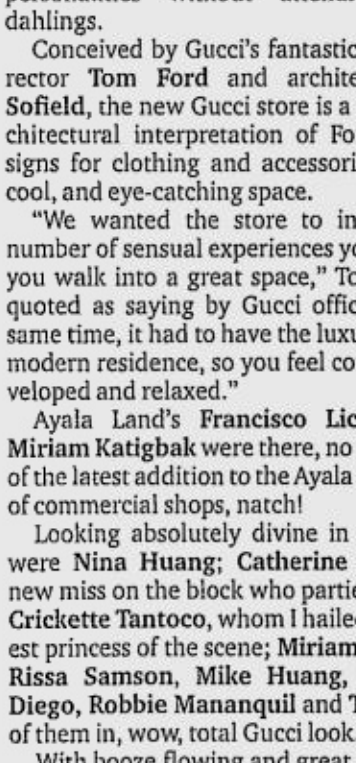
The ultra-chic Gucci store is now open for all of us and offers a wide range of fab Gucci product lines. Check it out, *palanggas*.

TINA Trichler, Joyce Orena-Stalder and Ruby Gan

WOMEN we love. Louis Vuitton's Gigi Mabanta, TV's Ces Drilon and Rustan's Jia Estrella

ANNA Palabyab and Nicole Schulze

GUCCI'S beautiful people. Pris Estacio, Criselda Lontok, Carol Garcia, Tito Yuchengco, Baby Araneta and Maricris Zobel



FASHION plate. Crickette Tantoco in her Gucci outfit

ITALIAN Trade Commisioner Giacomo Nicastro with Stores Specialists Inc.'s secret weapon Malu Francisco and Aldo Saglimbeni

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ULTRA-glam thigh-high boots with gold logo

MODELS at the store's opening at Greenbelt 4

ALEX VAN HAGEN

OF Gucci stores like this one in Greenbelt 4, Texas-born designer Tom Ford says, "it has to have the luxury of a sleek modern residence so you feel completely enveloped and relaxed."

Iconic, sensual and luxurious

From page E1

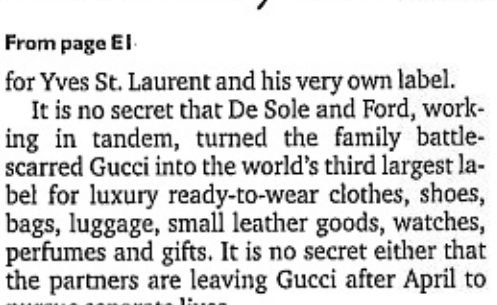
for Yves St. Laurent and his very own label.

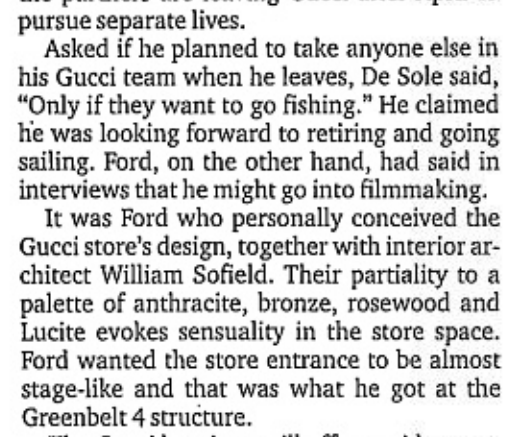
It is no secret that De Sole and Ford, working in tandem, turned the family battle-scarred Gucci into the world's third largest label for luxury ready-to-wear clothes, shoes, bags, luggage, small leather goods, watches, perfumes and gifts. It is no secret either that the partners are leaving Gucci after April to pursue separate lives.

Asked if he planned to take anyone else in his Gucci team when he leaves, De Sole said, "Only if they want to go fishing." He claimed he was looking forward to retiring and going sailing. Ford, on the other hand, had said in interviews that he might go into filmmaking.

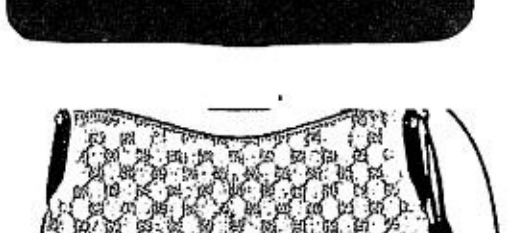
It was Ford who personally conceived the Gucci store's design, together with interior architect William Sofield. Their partiality to a palette of anthracite, bronze, rosewood and Lucite evokes sensuality in the store space. Ford wanted the store entrance to be almost stage-like and that was what he got at the Greenbelt 4 structure.

The Gucci boutique will offer a wide range of Gucci products, including, for the first in the Philippines, fine jewelry.



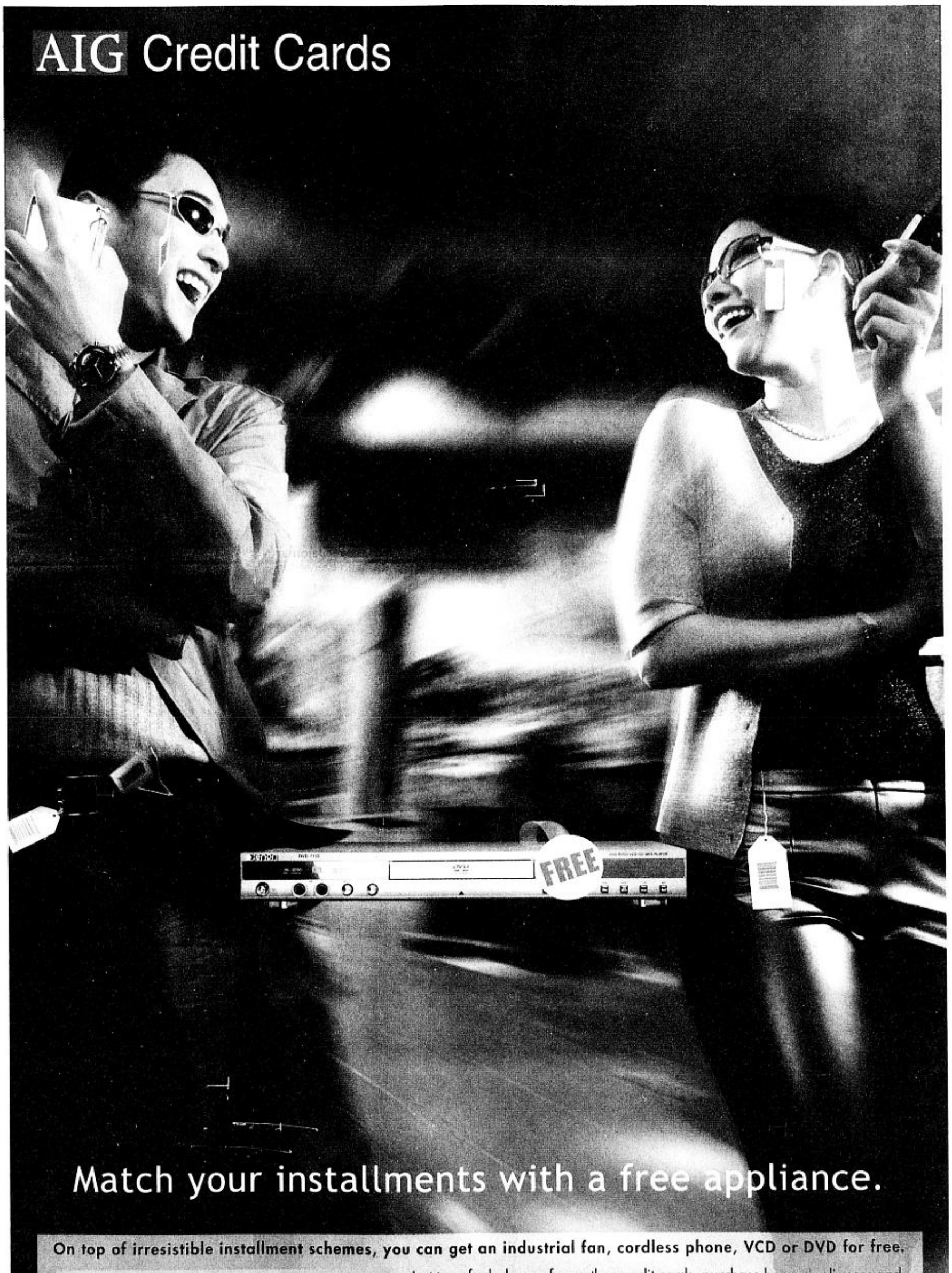


THE BRAND'S luxury goods are the essence of modern Italian style.



ASIA Pacific Gucci Group president Mimi Pun and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala

ALEX VAN HAGEN



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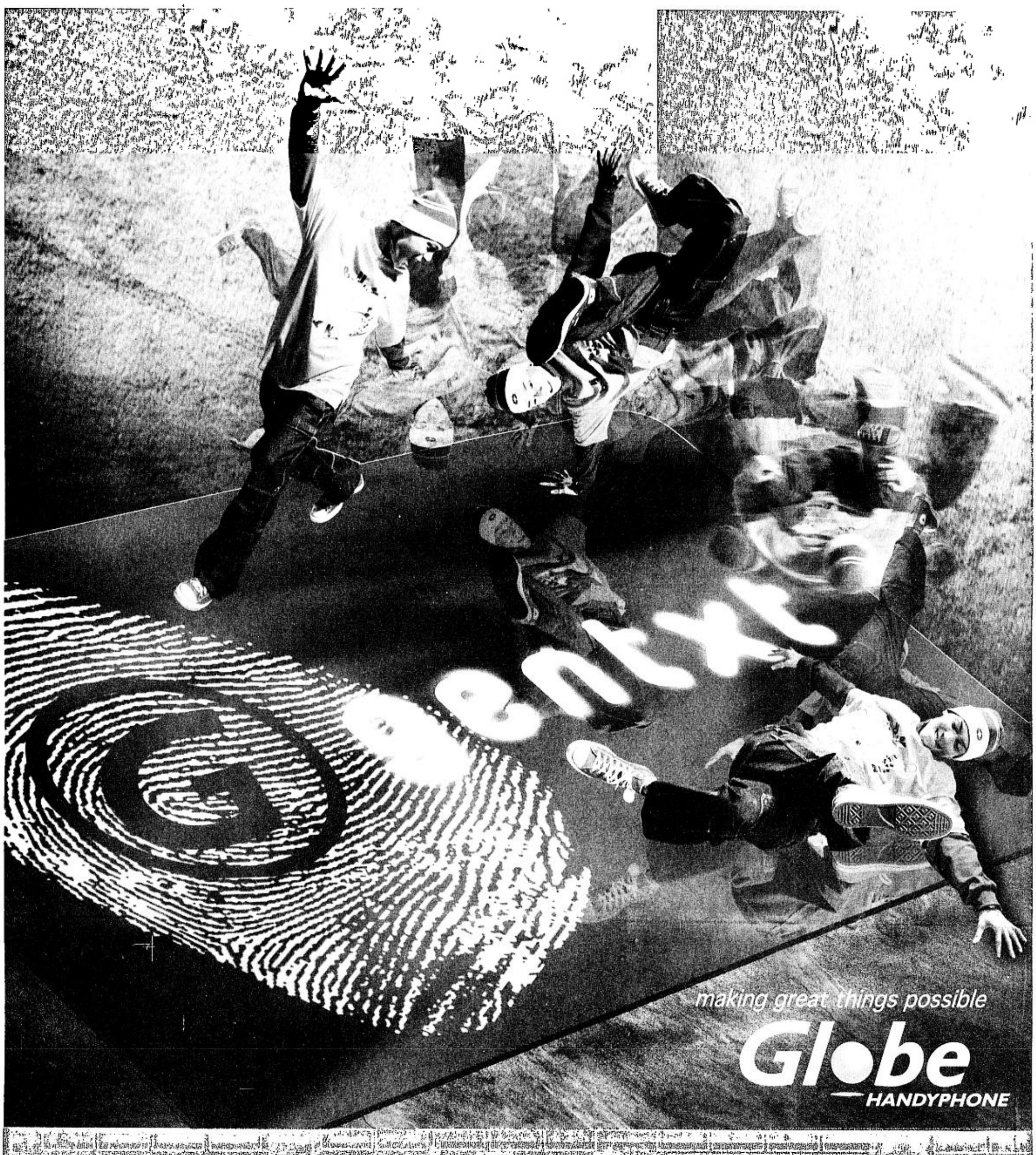

Move to the Gentxt Groove this November

ENTERTAINMENT

Nov 18-28 Break It!
Gentxt elevates hiphop dancing to an art form in this inter-school competition!
Elimination Rounds
Nov 18 Emilio Aguinaldo College and Lyceum
Nov 21 Holy Spirit
Nov 28 Don Bosco Mandaluyong, UP Manila, Letran College, San Beda College

Nov 22 Sat 9pm New Episode Bar Anniversary Party @ Nakpil St., Malate
Experience musical entertainment at its liveliest!
*Gentxters get a free standard drink for every P200 food purchase.

Nov 24 Mon 7pm Looney Tunes: Back In Action @ Onstage Greenbelt 1
The epic rivalry between Bugs and Daffy continues in this bone-crushing, carrot-chomping, anvil-dropping premiere. Also starring Brendan Fraser, Jenna Elfman and Steve Martin.
*First 400 Gentxters to flash their Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone at 6pm in the venue get one free ticket each.
*Text LOONEY to 2375 to download exciting ringtones, icons and wallpapers. Looney text is P2.50 per message sent.
*Text MOO to 2375 to get a free Selecta Moo Fruitti Milk.

Nov 26 Wed 8pm Akafellas Concert @ Klownz Bar, Araneta Center
Enjoy music at its purest form with this one-of-a-kind singing group!
*First 100 Gentxters who purchase tickets and register at the booth get VIP seats and a Domino's Pizza gift check.

Nov 28 Fri 9pm Gentxt Nights @ DISH, Rockwell Power Plant
Move and groove in our weekly concerts. Featuring Jay-R and South Border.
*Flash your Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone to get free entrance and a free drink.
*VIP area for the first 100 Gentxters.

SPORTS

Nov 29-30 Sat-Sun 1-7pm Gentxt Rock Climbing @ Olympic World, Alabang Town Center
*Free wall climbing session with harness and shoe rental for the first 30 Gentxters to register at 12 noon in the venue (flash your Gentxt card and Globe Handyphone).

Nov 29-30 Sat-Sun 1-7pm Gentxt Hotshots @ Olympic World, Alabang Town Center
Gentxters will be given 30 seconds to shoot as many basketballs as possible from three different spots on the court. The more points you score, the bigger the prize!

OLYMPIC WORLD

BAGUIO

Nov 20-22 Gentxt takes over Nevada Square in the City of Pines for a weekend of fun and excitement! Everyday, early bird Gentxters get a free drink at the following establishments:
Angles Nevada Square
Comfort Zone
Four Bar
Locus
Red Box
Taboo

Nov 20 Thu 7pm Globe Acoustic Night
Baguio's coolest bands turn up the heat! Featuring Silk & Steel, Velcro, Najah, Richard Merck and Mute Madness.

Nov 21 Fri 9pm Decadance
Be there when DJ Boyet Almazan takes us back to the 80's.

Nov 22 Sat 9pm Manomission
The country's premier DJ, Manolet Dario is in 'da house!

NRK radius

B1 of US! Text JOIN to 2271

Gentxt membership is open to all Globe subscribers 13 years old and up. You will receive a text message confirming your membership upon application. You can use this to avail of Gentxt privileges until your Gentxt card arrives. Your membership is valid as long as you remain a Globe subscriber. All Gentxt applications will be charged a one-time membership fee of P50 which will be deducted from prepaid credits or charged to bill for postpaid accounts.

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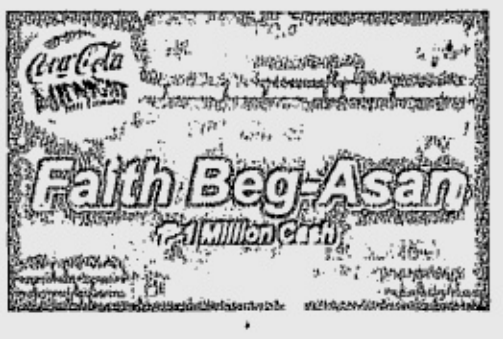

FUCHSIA FUNK. A model struts a piece from Versace's latest collection. AP

Petal power on bodacious bodies

WITH BEYONCÉ and Mariah Carey as celebrity claque, Donatella Versace dispatched what Style.com called "an eye-popping spectacle of color and print."

"Versace's multihued petal power overflowed with hothouse citrus, turquoise, pink and violet—all those shades that look best in the sun, on utterly bodacious bodies," the fashion site said.

There are two opinions. First: The collection relived the glory days of the '80s. "Using a combination of stretchy draped tops, thigh-hugging pedal push-

PETAL/ F3

THIS HOLIDAY, SHOPPING JUST GOT MORE REWARDING.

Rustan's HOLIDAY REWARDS

MORE SHOPPING DIVIDENDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON. HERE'S HOW YOU EARN IT:

SINGLE RECEIPT PURCHASE	REWARD COUPON
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If you absolutely love shopping at Rustan's, you're in for an incredible surprise. Because Rustan's is rewarding you for doing all that shopping from Nov. 28, 2003 to Jan. 31, 2004! With Rustan's Holiday Rewards, the reward coupons keep on coming when you keep on shopping. Just present your proof of purchase (single receipt) at designated counters in the Rustan's store where you made your purchase. Get instantly rewarded with coupons for even more shopping. Shop at Rustan's and experience incredible rewards.

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MALATE ☎ 521.8143	MUSIC CIRCUIT MEN OPPOSE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM NO ENTRANCE FEE
NOVALICHES ☎ 936.9757	BLAKDYAK BEAT BOX/HEADWORKZ	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 5AM GABRIELA EVERY THURS. OF NOV.
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NOVEMBER 28 FRIDAY 38-39-28

DANI

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VIVIAN

Bags for confident, stylish women

OLIVIA

PERSONAL style comes with age, experience and self-determination. No one understands this better than Carbon.

For year-end 2003, Carbon has come up with bags in styles and materials for the women of Carbon, for whom taste and style are intrinsic personal expressions.

Vivian, for example, a busy professional, goes for a wrinkled leather tote with a side diagonal zipper detail that's perfect for slipping in change, parking tickets or a small cell phone when in a hurry.

Meanwhile, Joanna juggles more than one business and thus needs the multipocketed, sturdy pebble grain shoulder tote named for her to organize her life.

Her business partner, Olivia, prefers a leather, loaf-shaped shoulder bag which features functionality and professionalism in one structured package.

Claudia, on the other hand, is the epitome of timeless elegance, preferring an elongated leather framed handbag with a covered steel handle.

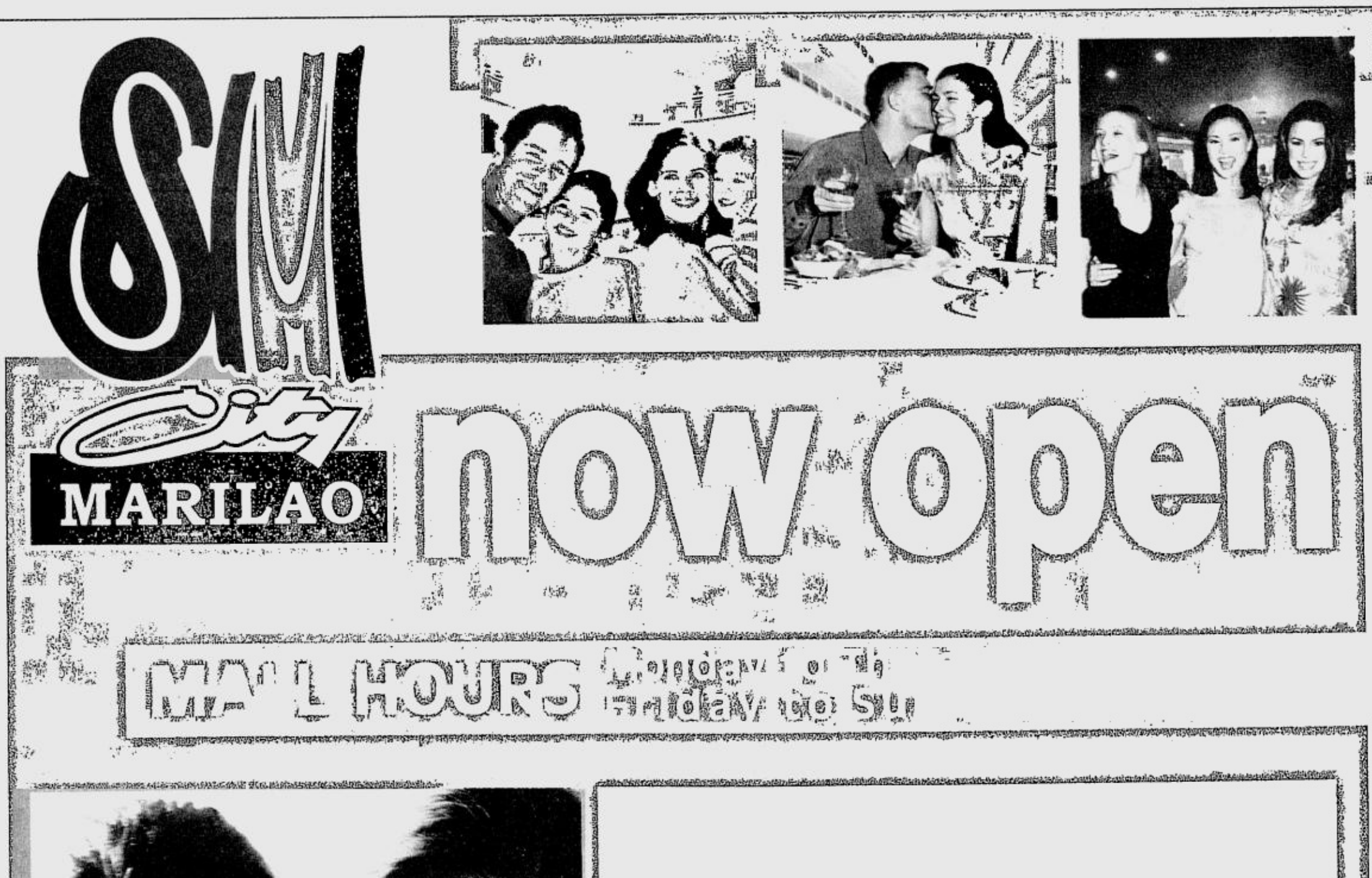
Her antithesis, Risa, a model and free spirit, needs her leather patchwork tote to match her active lifestyle.

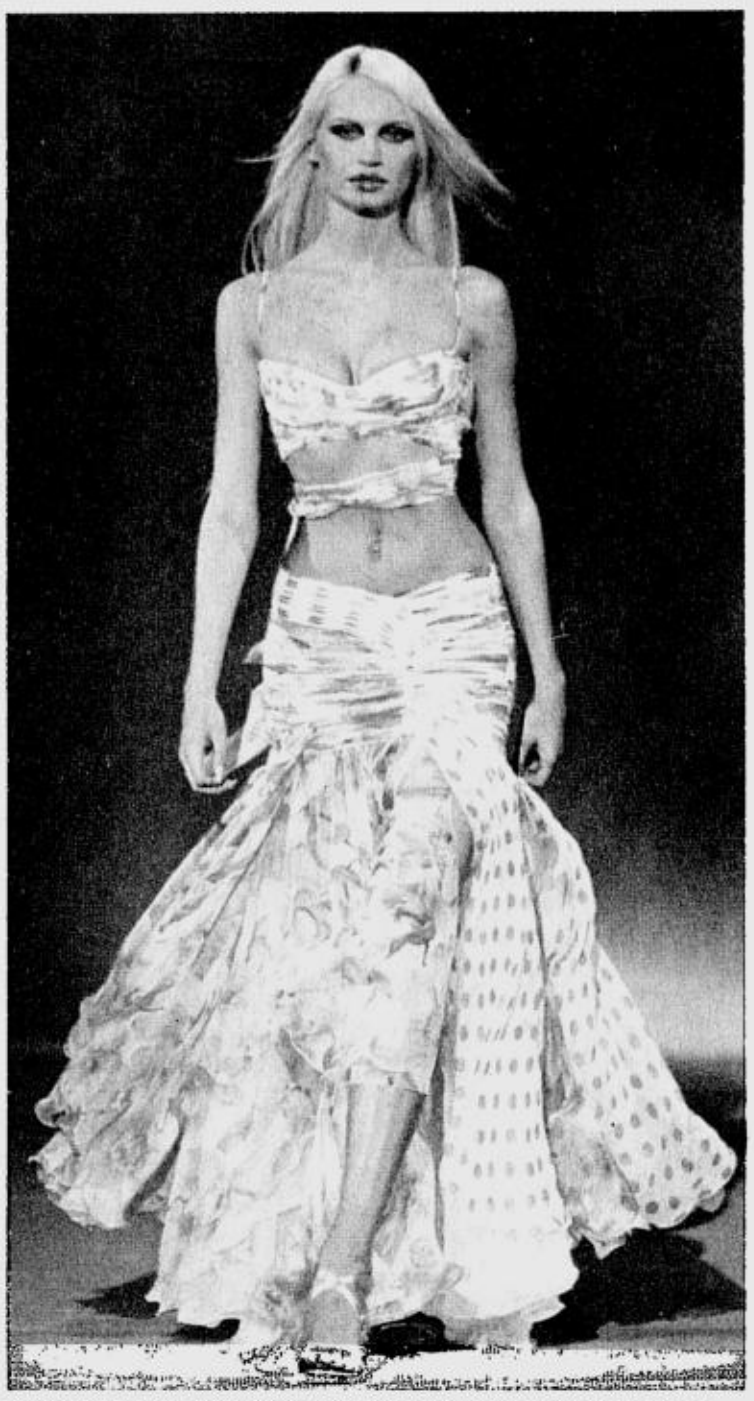
Creative mind Mary Ann prefers a strip leather tote with rivet detail and inner pouch to carry her collaterals, files and essentials in one sturdy package.

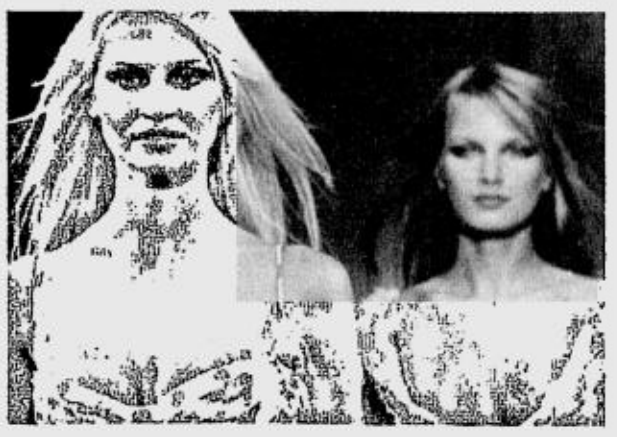
Mary Ann's best friend, Dani, who handles accounts, needs a more structured version of Mary Ann's choice. Thus, she goes for a pebble grain leather, cross-over messenger bag.

Carbon is located at Greenbelt 3 and Shangri- La Plaza Mall.

MARY ANN







Donatella Versace unleashes an eye-popping spectacle of color and print

VERSACE'S collection at the High Fashion Week, which opened in Moscow recently AP

Petal power

From page F1

ers, and a huge rush of floral gowns, Versace reprised something of the exuberant '80s optimism for which her brother Gianni was known," the fashion site reported.

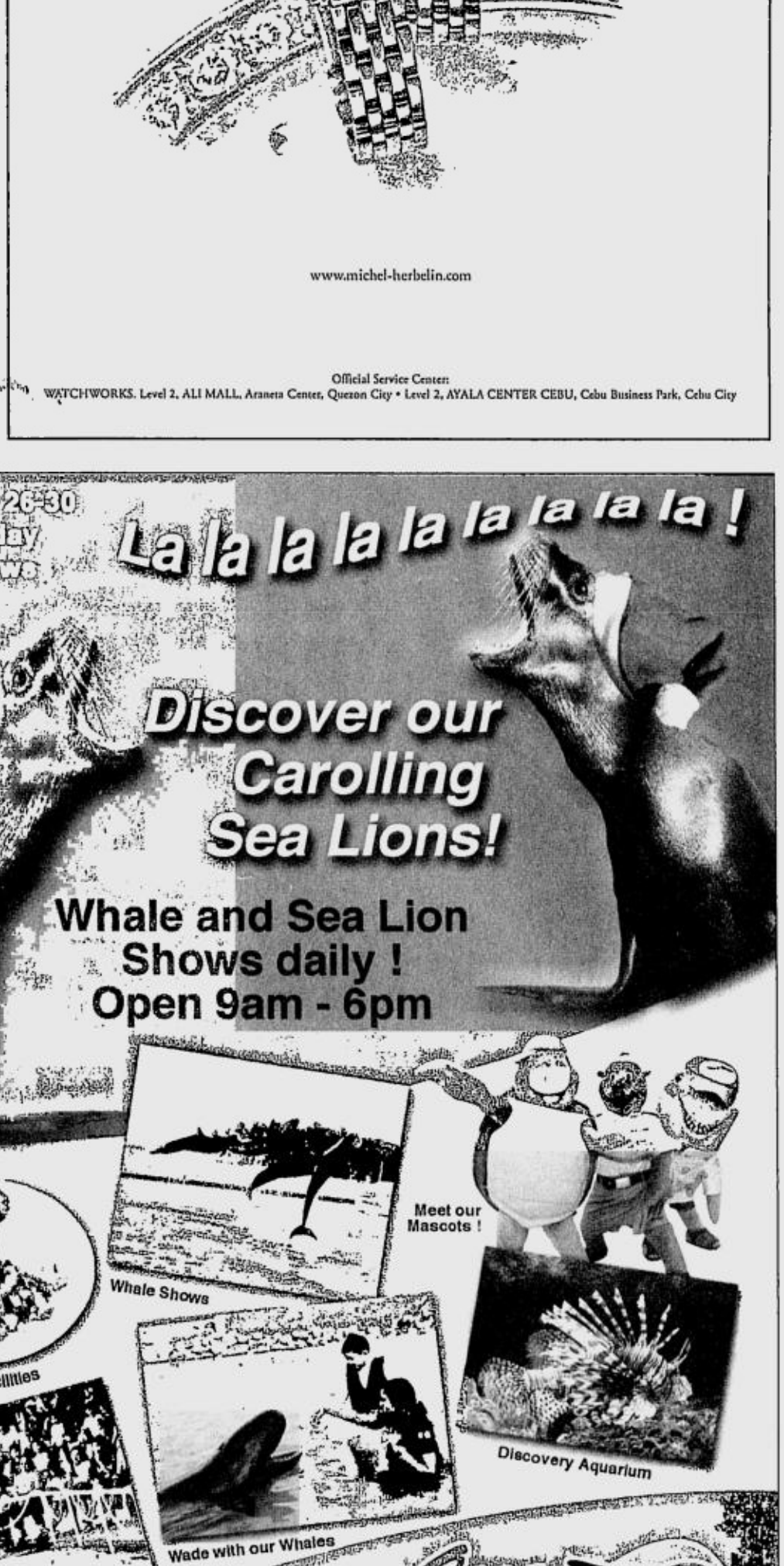
True enough, '80s supermodel Linda Evangelista cat-walked during the show.

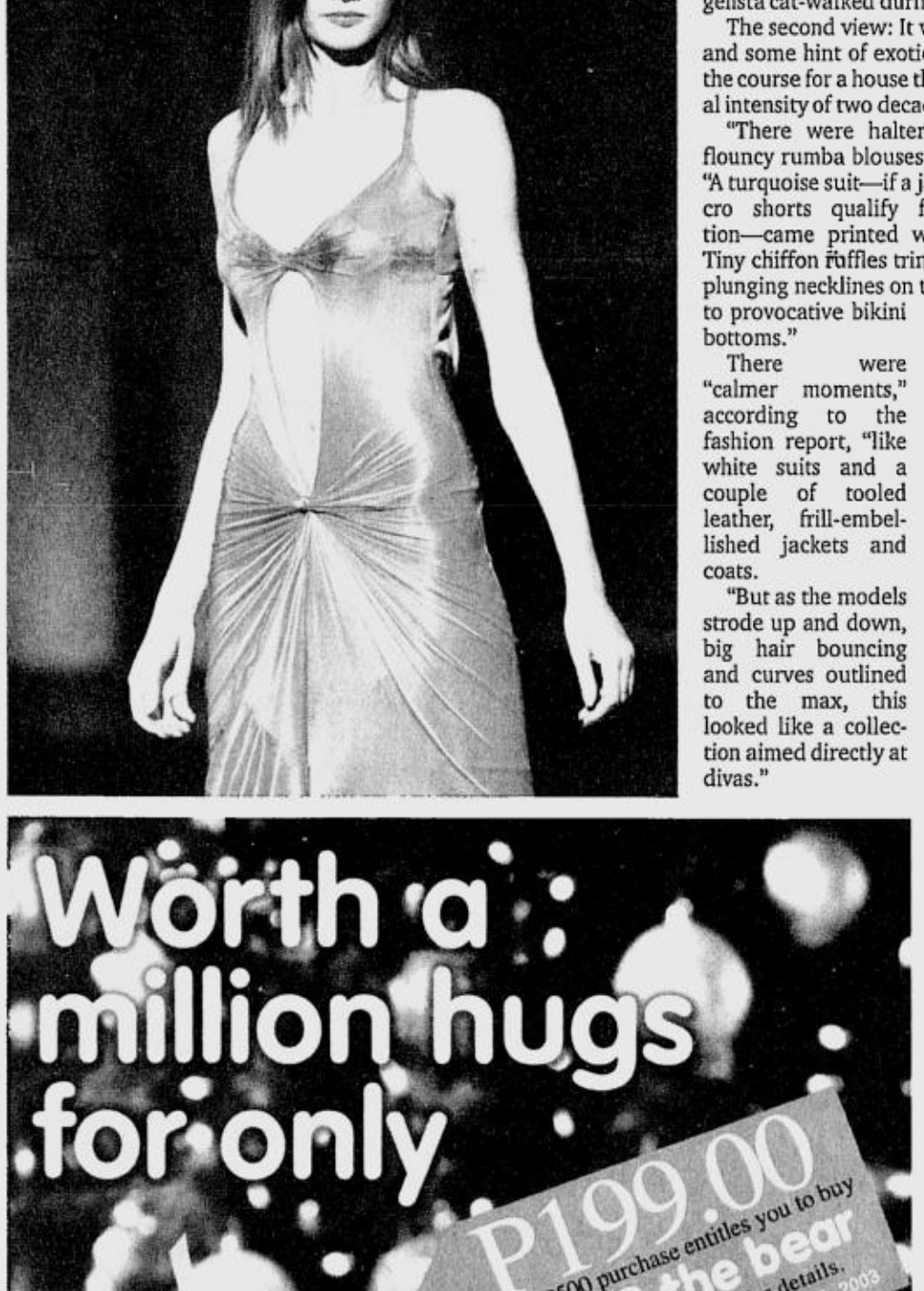
The second view: It was nothing new. Sexy and some hint of exotic bondage was par for the course for a house that thrived in the sexual intensity of two decades back.

"There were halternecks, bra tops and flouncy rumba blouses," Style.com reported. "A turquoise suit—if a jacket and a pair of micro shorts qualify for such a description—came printed with magenta daisies. Tiny chiffon ruffles trimmed everything from plunging necklines on trailing evening gowns to provocative bikini bottoms."

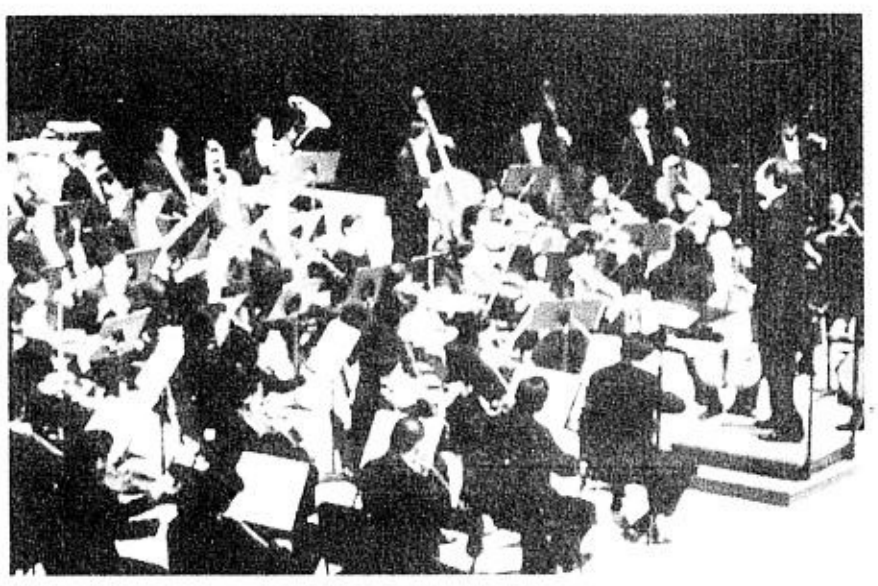
There were "calmer moments," according to the fashion report, "like white suits and a couple of tooled leather, frill-embellished jackets and coats.

"But as the models strode up and down, big hair bouncing and curves outlined to the max, this looked like a collection aimed directly at divas."





Each year, we make sure
that YOU are always remembered...



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A celebration of great music and warm relationships.

Featuring:

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Lani Misalucha *Basil Valdez*

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PLDT 75 THINK AHEAD

PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Choosing the right shoes

YOUR choice of shoes for work should depend on your profession and your company's dress code. Neutral-colored pumps are often the norm, but there are quite a number of chic and stylish alternatives in the market these days. Shoes from Tyler boutique in Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall and Rustan's Tower

A FEW days ago, I was reading a local magazine that featured a certain upscale event and the well-heeled personalities who attended it. I was surveying some of Manila's chic-est chicks with much admiration when, to my utter dismay, I espied a major fashion faux pas.

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

What, you may ask, caused me so much consternation? It was a pair of seemingly gorgeous women decked in their glittering evening finery but shod in frumpy open-toed leather sandals with thick unflattering straps.

You may think I'm being a bit too harsh in my judgment, but I expected so much more from the dressed-up duo. It was apparent, after all, that quite a bit of effort went into creating their looks. So, why not go all the way and pay a little more attention to detail?

Then again, it's actually a common mistake for a large number of individuals to wear inappropriate shoes, be it for work, casual affairs or formal events.

More often than not, shoes are but an afterthought. It's interesting to note, however, that some of my stylish, well-dressed friends put together their outfits based on the shoes they are wearing for a particular affair.

In any case, here are a few simple and practical tips for those who want to improve their shoe sense:

On the job

Your choice of shoes for work should basically depend on your profession and your company's dress code, should it have one.

Most conservative corporate jobs, for example, require that you don a pair of neutral-colored pumps with a skirt or pantsuit. Dressy loafers are also acceptable but only when worn with pants, as this shoe style must never be paired with skirts.

If you are tired of boring, un-adventurous basics and your company allows it, add a punch of style by wearing bright colored pumps. Or if you must stick to neutrals, why not go for chic crocodile or mock crocodile pumps that are all the rage this season?

Jobs that are more artistic in nature are, on the other hand, less confining fashion-wise and actually encourage self-expression. Oftentimes, you can wear anything you please. It goes without saying, though, that you must still strive to be your fashionable and appropriate self at all times.

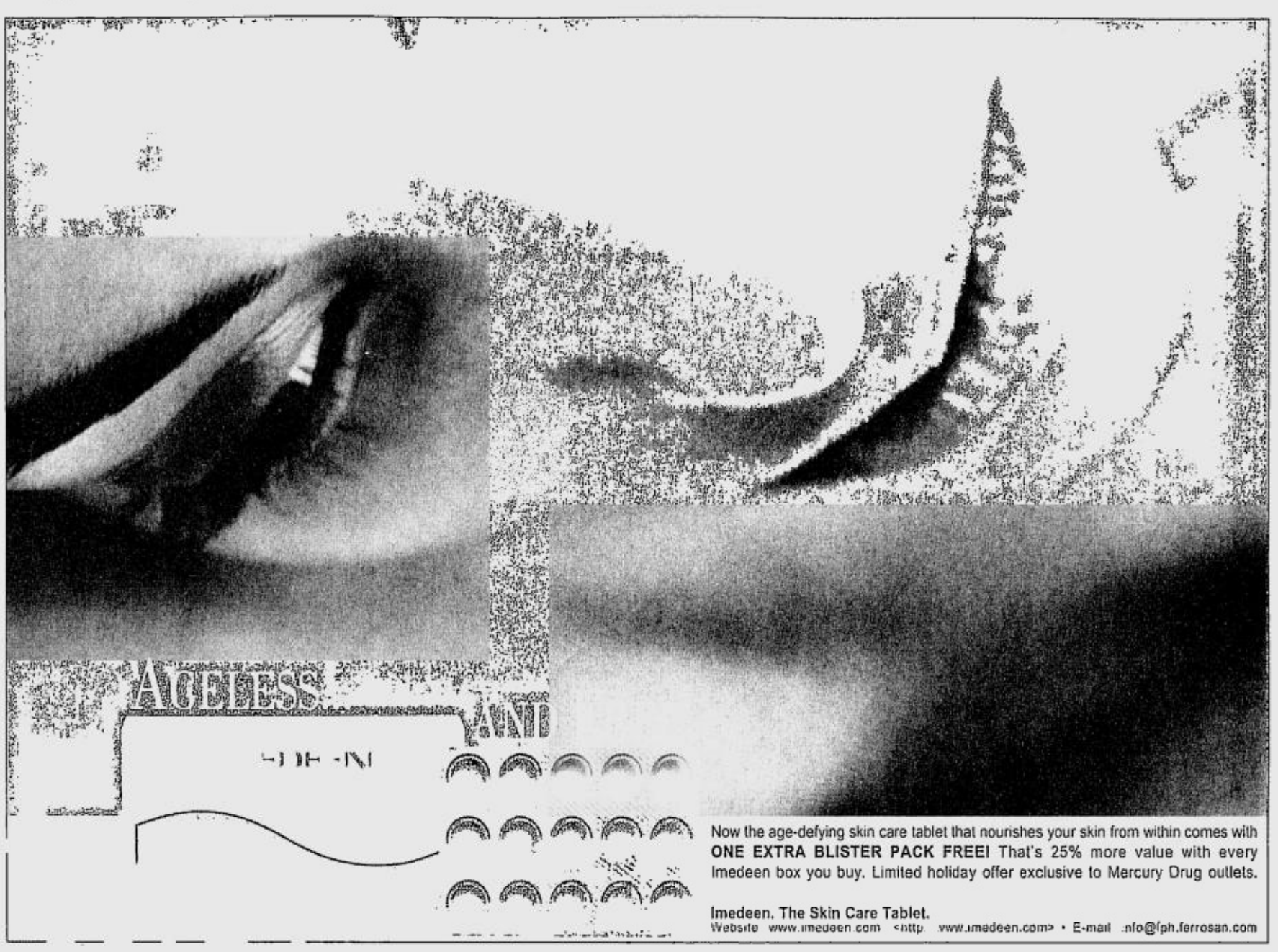
Loafing around

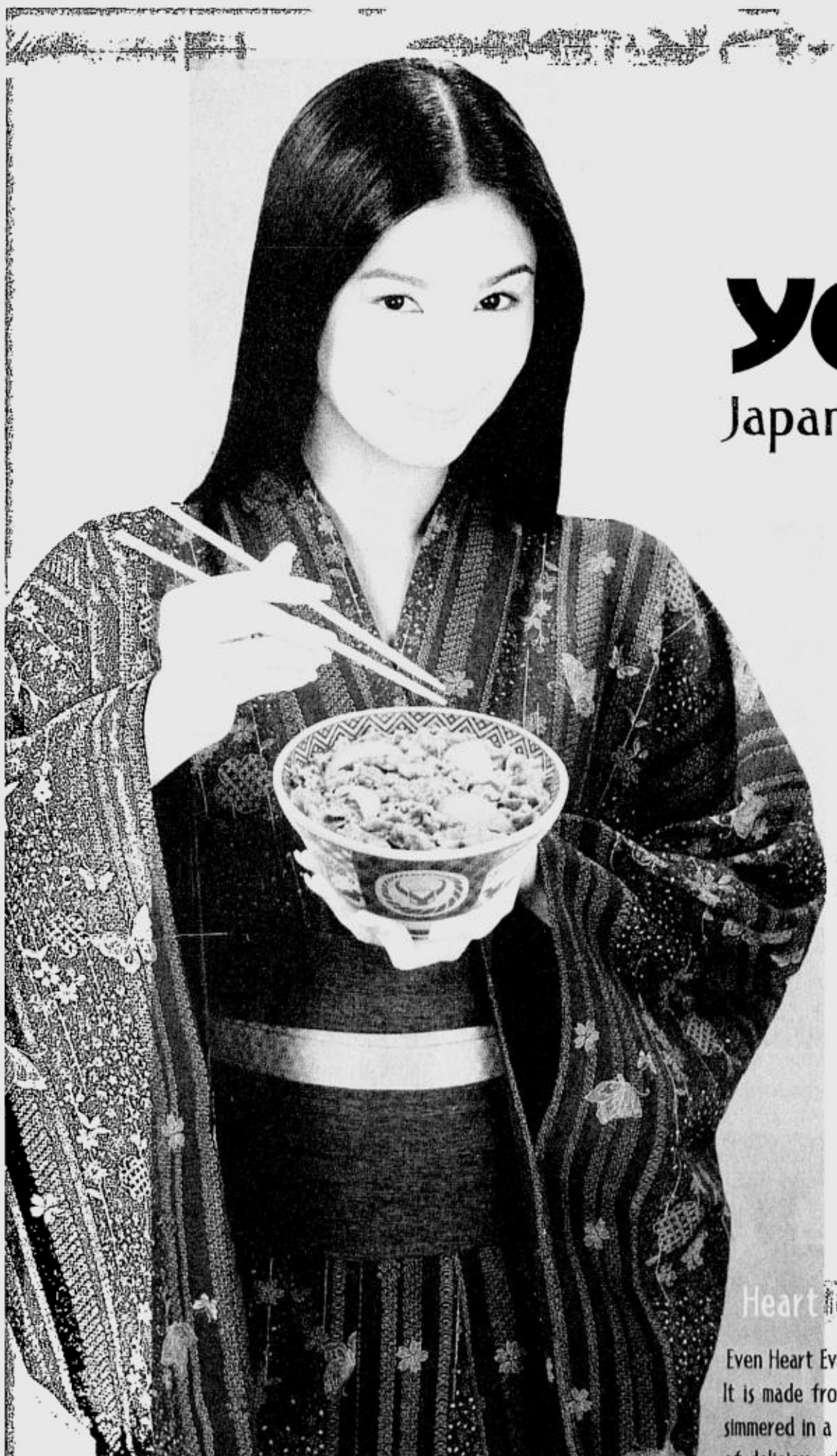
No particular rule applies when it comes to choosing footwear for casual occasions. But it will always help to try and create a harmonious appearance by wearing shoes that go with your outfit.

Jeans, trousers, capris and the like basically go with anything, from slip-ons, thongs, wedge or high-heeled sandals, ballerina slippers, loafers and sneakers, depending on your top, accessories and the look you want to project.

It's a bit trickier to pick a pair when you are wearing a dress or skirt. Others have a tendency to create the wrong proportion by wearing chunky, clunky shoes with

CHOOSING/ G2





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Choosing the right shoes

From page G1

feminine dresses.

If you are totally clueless, you can always ask stylish siblings or friends to help you out. It will also help to check out fashion books and magazines that show the kinds of shoes you can wear with specific articles of clothing for different occasions, not just for casual, everyday affairs.

Cinderella's slipper

Cinderella's fairy godmother had enough fashion sense to know that her ward needed magical glass slippers to wear with her gown.

Take your cue from her when choosing footwear for formal or dressy clothing and occasions by making sure your picks are made of evening material like satin, lace or metallic leather.

Bejeweled or embellished stilettos are whimsical but chic choices as well.

It's best to avoid leather shoes or sandals for strictly formal events. And do keep in mind that thick-soled platform shoes have a tendency to look too trendy and a tad tacky—although, believe it or not, in the 1930s, Carmen Miranda popularized platform shoes, prompting Vogue to report in 1939 that "nothing is dowdier than a dainty foot."

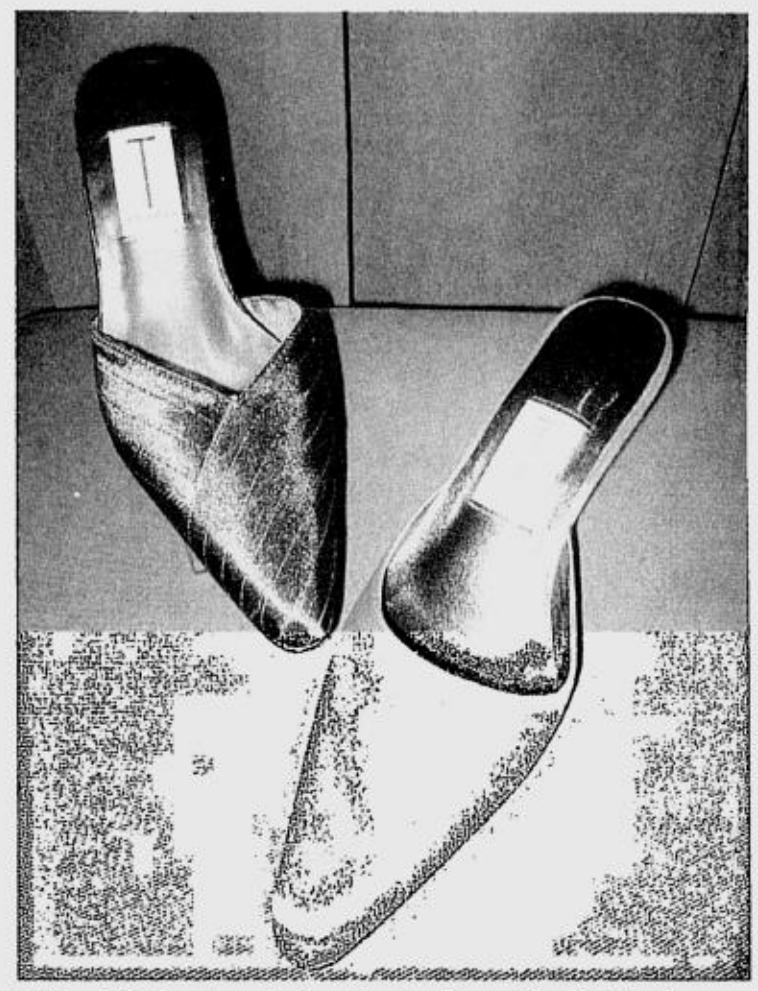
For formal or dressy occasions, choose footwear made of evening material like satin, lace or metallic leather

Chunky heels are also unflattering, so opt for slim-heeled sandals or shoes. It's best to stick to sleek-looking stilettos a la Jimmy Choo or Manolo Blahnik for those dressed-up evenings out.

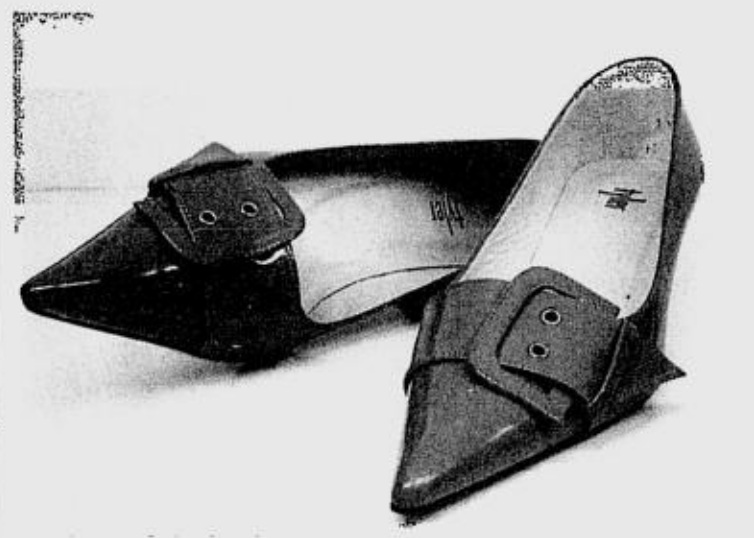
If you can't wear sky-high heels, however, a good alternative would be the dainty Sabrina heel, which is also known as the kitten heel and is reminiscent of Audrey Hepburn in the early '60s; or the princess heel, a tapered and demure heel that was worn in court during the olden days.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

SILVER and gold footwear from Lila Almario at the Power Plant Mall

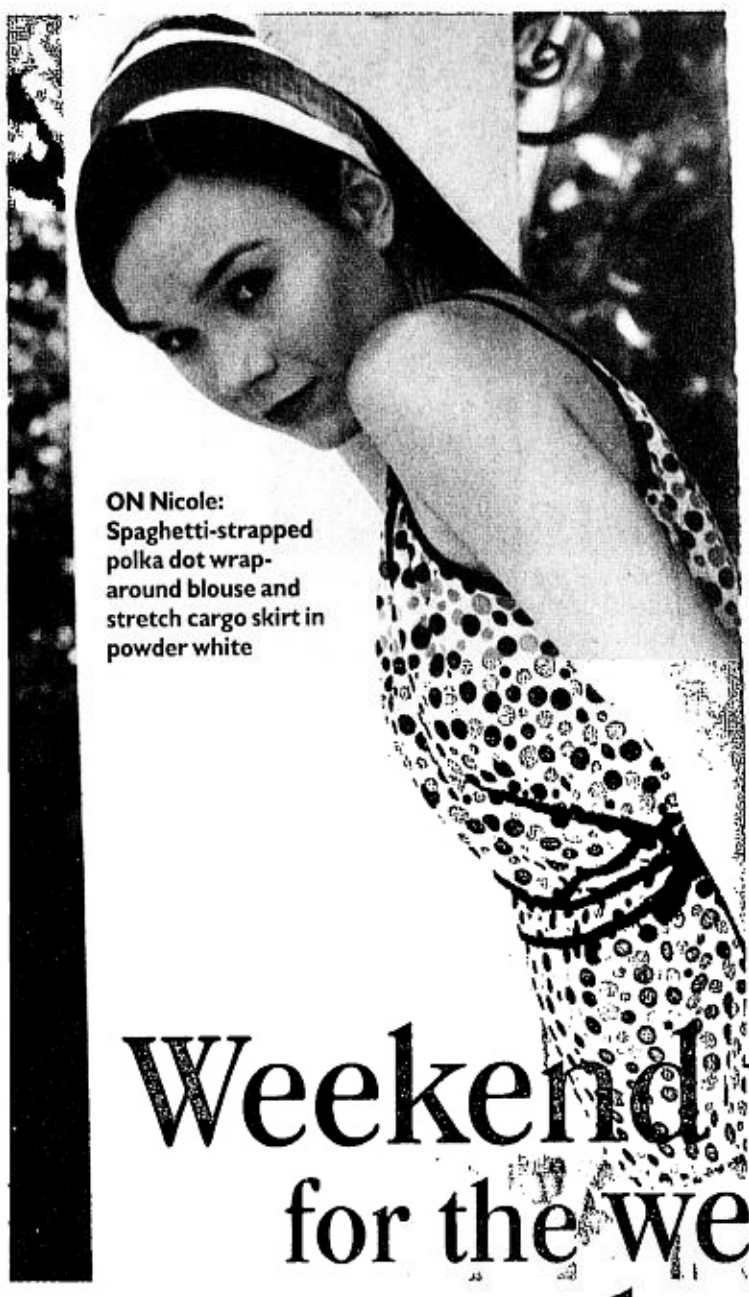


RED and black satin mules from T at the Power Plant Mall and Greenbelt 3

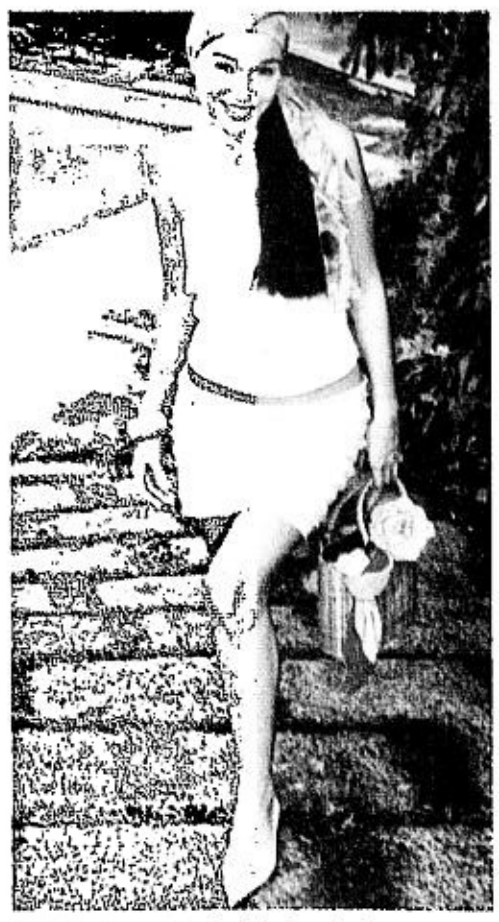


BROWN and black leather pumps from Tyler

NO RULES apply when going casual, but do try to look put-together by wearing shoes that complement your outfit. Assorted casual footwear by T at Power Plant Mall and Greenbelt 3



ON Nicole: Spaghetti-strapped polka dot wrap-around blouse and stretch cargo skirt in powder white



ON Nicole: cotton knit halter top in sunny lemon and linen bias tape skirt (that can be worn as top)

LADIES of Regatta: (from left) Tricia Tarriela, Annette Gozon-Abrogar, Mila Dragon-Floirendo and Michelle Castillo

Weekend wear for the well-heeled gets a new look

REGATTA, an icon brand of the '90s which started as a pet project of Lizzie Zobel and Mia Borromeo, has had smooth sailing over the years, growing into a popular casual and sports fashion brand for the family.

The always spic-and-span outlet at Greenbelt was a favorite shopping destination for all ages. Regatta was identified with casual chic with a marine persuasion. Boat shoes, slippers, hats and bags were coordinated with cool cotton resort wear, which every member of the family could comfortably slip into for those Polo Club lunches or family gatherings.

Years haven't washed away Regatta's appeal. The owners are delighted to see that some friends, notably Mia Dragon-Floirendo, Carissa Cruz, Michelle Castillo, Annette Gozon-Abrogar and Tricia Tarriela, are continuing Regatta's tradition of stylish comfort and wearability.

This, as the brand gets a "facelift," as new and young faces with fresh ideas take over it.

First on the list of changes is a new and dynamic logo that best represents the change in design, style direction and ownership of the brand.

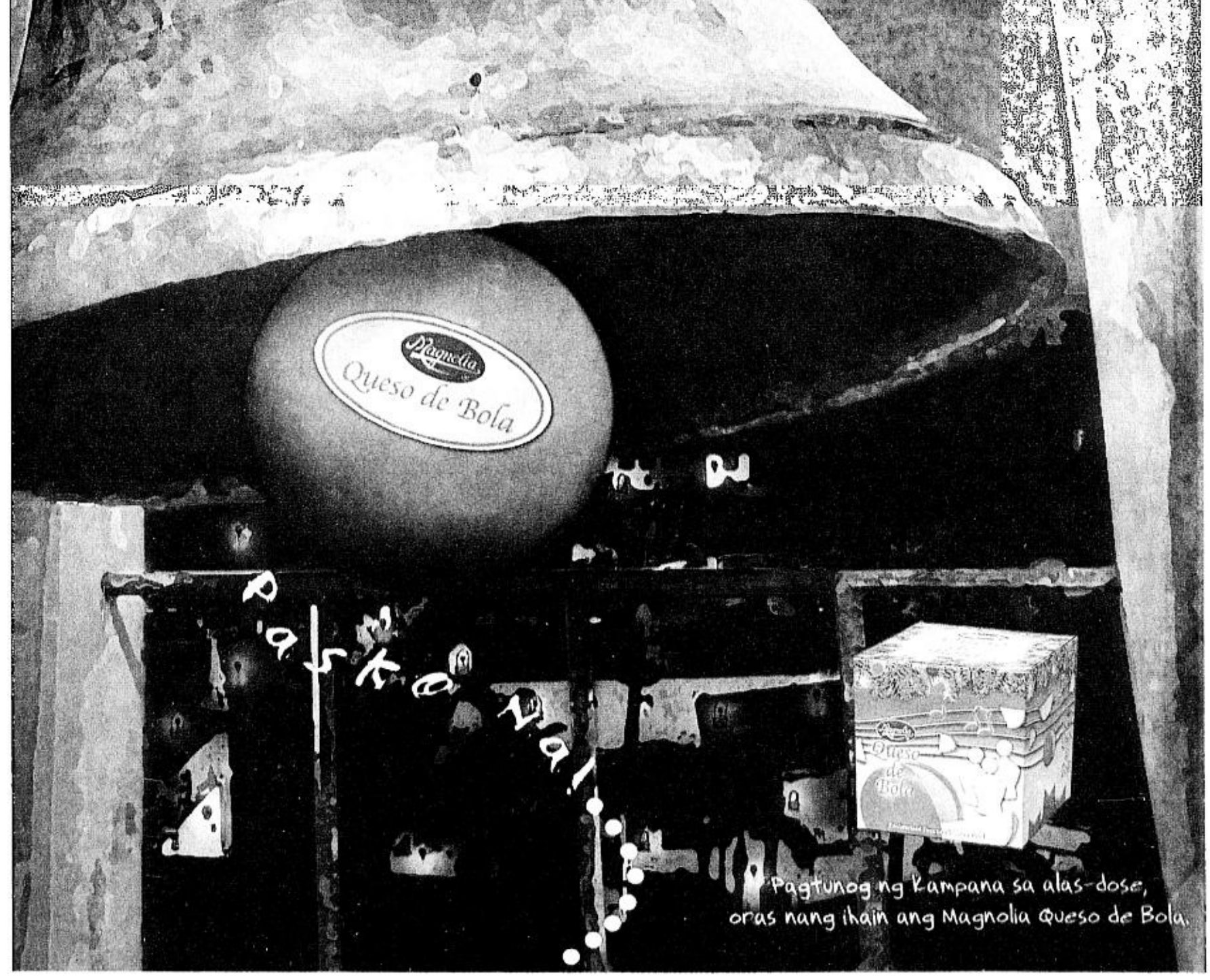
Then, marking another first in its history of relaxed and enduring styles for men, women and children, Regatta will be introducing new collections designed by guest designers.

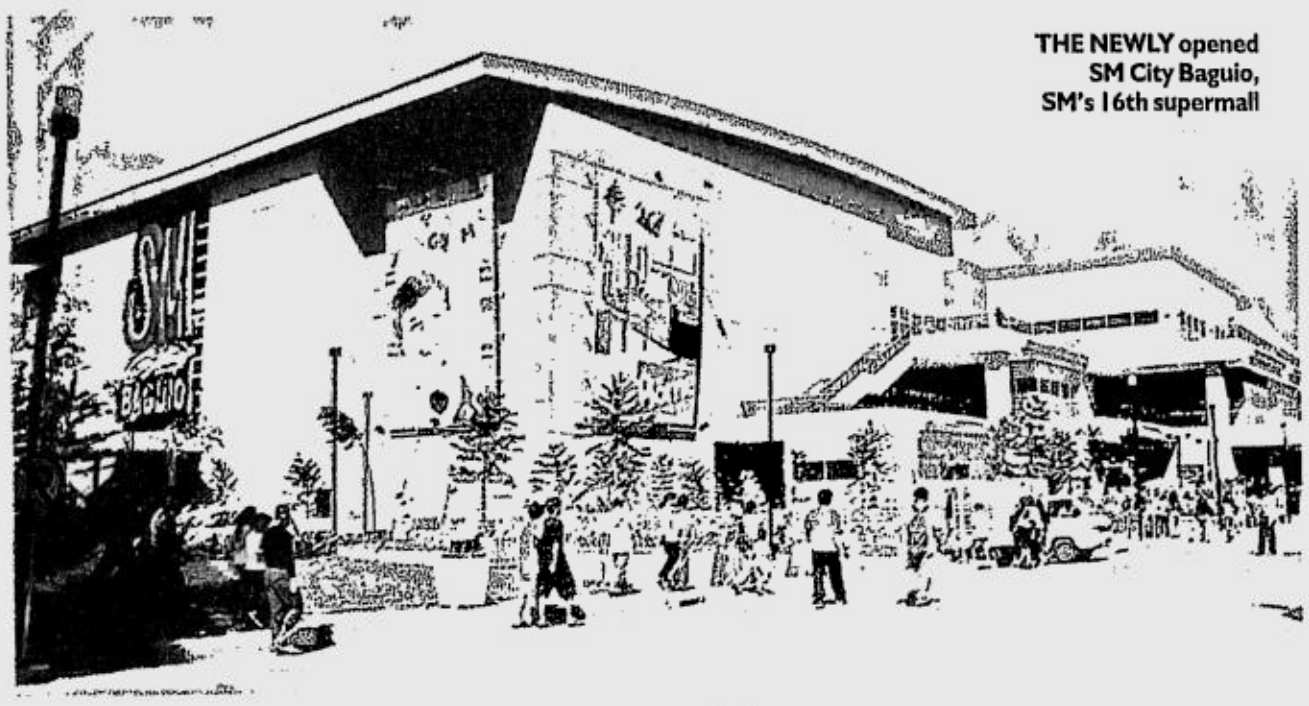
Soon to grace Regatta's stores in Glorietta, Greenbelt 3, SM Megamall and Alabang Town Center is Tippi Ocampo's summer collection especially developed for Regatta.

A new look for the store is also coming up, with renovations scheduled for January 2004.

Regatta recently showed its new face as it relaunched the brand in a fashion show at Dream Bar in 6750, where, once again, it reaffirmed its commitment to no-frills, casual chic dressing, the quintessential weekend wear for the well-heeled.

ON her: Terry velour hooded slim jacket in midnight blue and terry velour super low waist track pants in midnight blue





THE NEWLY opened SM City Baguio, SM's 16th supermall

AT THE ribbon-cutting ceremony of SM City Baguio: architect Gloria Vergara, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Rep. Mauricio Domogan, Baguio City Mayor Bernardo Vergara, SM Group of Companies founder and chair Henry Sy, former senator Nikki Coseteng and Vice Mayor Lourdes Tabanda

Popular mall opens outlet in Baguio

ALL roads led to Baguio recently as SM City Baguio opened its doors to the public. In the SM tradition, the company's founder and chair Henry Sy Sr. opened the doors to the first wave of customers from Baguio City, nearby provinces of La Union, Pangasinan and the Ilocos Region.

Delegates to the Advertising Congress, which was ongoing at that time, also made a stop at the mall.

Located on a 79,763-sq-m property at the site of the former Pines Hotel on Session Road, SM City Baguio has six levels.

SM City Baguio's design has been inspired by the rice terraces. The mall has been so designed to bring fresh mountain air into the central areas, which is highlighted by a canopy and a scenic elevator.

A simple blessing was held the day before the mall was opened to the public, beginning with a concelebrated Mass by Apostolic Vicar of Benguet, Bishop Carlito Cenzon. This was followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Baguio City officials, Mayor Bernardo Vergara, Rep. Mauricio Domogan and Vice Mayor Lourdes Tabanda. They were joined by Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, former senator Nikki Coseteng and SM officials led by founder and chair Henry Sy Sr., Tessie Sy-Coson, Hans Sy and Herbert Sy.

Among the guests during the blessing were Unilever Philippines CEO Howard Belton, Prudential Guarantee chair Robert Coyuito Jr., Philippine Stock Exchange's Eddie Gobing, Camus Engineering's Luis and Jose Mari Camus.

Also seen were National Book Store's Presentacion Ramos, Ricco and Tina Ocampo, Rikki and Beng Dee, and Baguio residents Mike and Edna Anton.

Highlighting the festivities during the blessing was the rich culture of the Cordilleras, which were featured in dance numbers like "Sakpaya and Banga" (Pot Dance), "Pattong" (Bontoc War Dance), "Bendian," "Dinuyya," "Sakuting" and the "Kalinga Festival Dance."

SM'S Henry Sy Sr. and Herbert Sy with Robert Coyiuto Jr.

ABS-CBN Publishing's Ernie Lopez with Apa Ongpin and SM's first VP Millie Dizon

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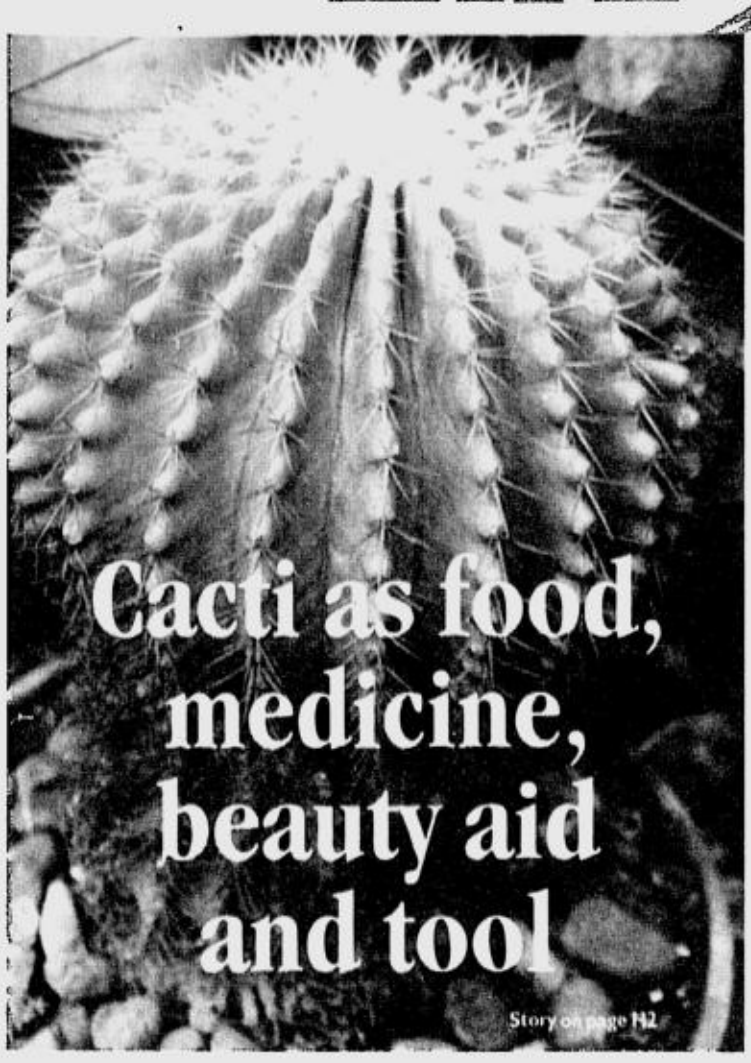

THE GOLDEN barrel cactus can be a source of fresh water for thirsty travelers in the desert.

Cacti as food, medicine, beauty aid and tool

Story on page N2

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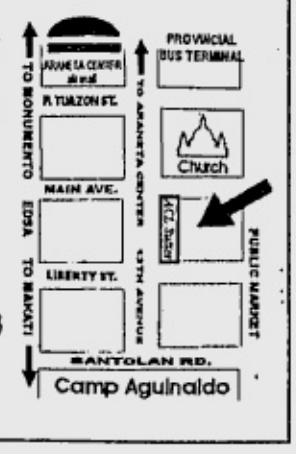

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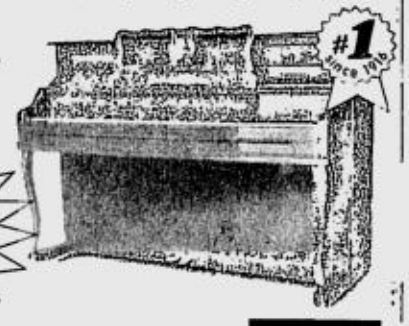

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DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-721 Series of 2003

Cacti as food, medicine, beauty aid and tool

By Serapion Metilla
Contributor

CACTI and other succulents are cultured not just for their aesthetic value. Some of them are used as food, medicine, beauty aid and tool. For example, vegetables and/or salads can be cooked out of young pods of *Opuntia ficus-indica*. The Indians of Bolivia's high plateau cooked *Weingartia vorwerkii* and eat them like potatoes. Fruits of *Opuntia ficus-indica* (Prickly pears), *Hylocereus undatus* and other varieties of *Cereus* are sold in fruit stalls during summer in Brazil, Mexico and other Mediterranean countries. Most cactus fruits have acid tastes. An attractively flavored strawberry jam is made from the fruits of strawberry cactus while the fruits of billberry cactus (*Myrtillocactus*) are eaten fresh or dried like raisins. Barbados gooseberry is taken from *Pereskias* while the fruits of *Epiphyllum anguiliger* is said to taste almost the same as the real gooseberry.

From the large spherical cactus like the golden barrel (*E. grusonii*) many travelers in the desert have been saved from hunger and thirst. Fresh water can be extracted and the flesh can be candied. Intoxicating drinks can be prepared from the fruits of the giant cactus *Carnegia gigantea* and tequila wine from Agaves. Candies and sweetmeats can also be made from the flesh of *Ferrocactus weslezenii* in such brand names as cactus carry and Citron. As medicines, the jelly-like flesh of aloe vera has been used for wounds, burns and stomach ulcers. Also from aloes, beauty cream products are now popular most especially as ingredients in shampoos.

Cosmetics, too, have been produced from insects that grow only in *Opuntias*. Called cochinal insects, which are actually scales, lipsticks, red ink, paints and varnish have been manufactured before the discoveries of aniline dyes. Large plantations of *Opuntias* were developed in Central America and Canary Islands just to rear this particular insect. When these insects matured, they were harvested by brushing them off from the plants, killed and then dried. It is said that almost one kilogram of the dried product consists of 140,000 pieces of scales. These were exported to Germany, England and other countries. These types of business flourished about the 1880s to 1890s.

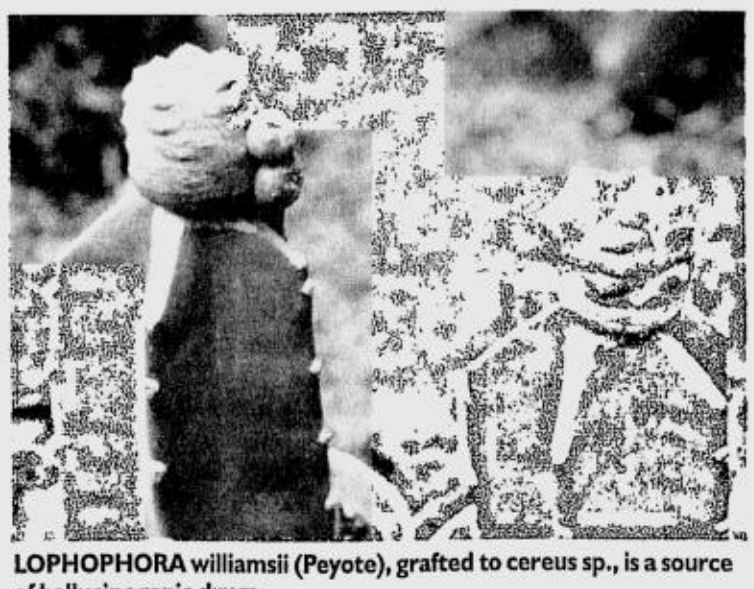
Spines of certain species of cactus have been used as tools. Unbelievable, but it has been observed that even a bird has discovered the use of cactus spines, particularly the barbed spines of the *Galapagos Opuntias* to hook maggots out from rotten woods. Spines have been used as toothpicks by the native Indians of the Peruvian highlands and used the spines of some columnar cacti as needles. The hook-shaped spines of *Mimmillaria bocasana* have also been used by the natives as fishhooks.

Firewood and lumber for building houses are also gathered from the stems of large Columnar cacti (*Trichocereus pasacana*) by the natives of Argentina and Bolivian frontiers. As hedges or as living fences, the cacti and *Euphorbias* are not only artistic but practical as well especially as protection from burglars and thieves.

Seeds of many columnar cacti are said to contain caffeine. It is said also that substances similar to digitalis extracted from the plant "Queen of the Night" (*Selenicereus sp.*), has offered effective homeopathic treatments for certain heart ailments. Toxic properties were extracted from the stems of *Machaerocereus gummosus* that was used to poison the fish so they can be easily scooped up from the water.

Hallucinogens similar to LSD (*Iysergic acid diethylamide*) are also found in certain species of cactus particularly the globular *Lophophora williamsii* which is known as "peyotl" by the Mexican Indians. It is said to contain a very potent hallucinogenic alkaloid mescalin which when taken internally can produce intense visual hallucinations. Because of this, a secret cult among the Aztecs and other American Indians have been worshiping the plant as god. The "native American church," a Christian sect which has existed since 1911 with about 250,000 members who are mostly Indians, used peyote in their rituals. The head of the peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*) was sliced and dried into "mescal buttons" and given to each member to be eaten as "host" so they can see visions of their gods during the ritual. Aldous Huxley, a celebrated English writer experimented on himself the use of *Lophophora* drug that made him produced the now famous essay "Heaven and Hell." A German psychiatrist H. Biirger Prinns has also experimented on himself using the drug in his rounds in one of the clinics in Heidelberg University. According to him, the sister accompanying him was suddenly reduced to skeleton, her face and hands showed only the shape of the bones. The patients were bloated, constantly twisting in their beds, like gigantic worms.

These days, the sale and gathering of *Lophophora williamsii* is already banned in the United States because hippies and even other groups of intellectuals have come to regard mescalin as the "fashionable drug."



LOPHOPHORA williamsii (Peyote), grafted to cereus sp., is a source of hallucinogenic drugs.

THE FLOWER of hylocereus undatus is good for salads. Its fruits, which look like red apples and are called dragon fruits, are now sold in fruit stands.

A CEREUS sp. cactus with fruit. The fruit is good for diabetes.

Plants that are taken for granted or are not given much attention and care can be as important as others

Life saver

It is hard to believe that cacti and other succulents can save lives. Plants that are just taken for granted or are not given much attention and care, can be as important as others.

Sometime in 1993, about 150 houses in the artist's colony of Laguna Beach in Southern California, were destroyed by a huge fire and reduced to ashes. It was impossible to hear that a few houses were saved from the conflagration. One of the houses was owned by Murray Parks, who believed and proved that the succulents planted around his garden protected his house from the disastrous fire. It seemed impossible the house survived and remained untouched. Some of the succulents planted around the three-story house of Parks were the moisture-bearing ice-plants (*Lamparanthus emarginatus*). Belonging to the Aizoaceae family, this particular plant is a succulent with woody stems and linear gray-green leaves with daisy-like pale rose flowers.

Parks further related that he started planting the ice plants about 18 years ago from the time the incident happened. He planted them everywhere, up to the walls of the house and rooftops. He also said that he even tried to persuade his neighbors to do the same thing but they didn't. "If they had, their houses would still be standing," Parks sadly explained.

A well-known Hollywood actor, Tom Selleck, also proved the effectiveness of the succulents when his house was spared also from the monstrous blaze. It was another testament that proved the qualities of succulents as fire repellent. This star of the television series "Magnum P.I." said that aside from the ice plants, he planted fire resistant bushes and shrubs like cacti, *Euphorbias* and *Crassulas* among others around his property. It was also said that the fire did not go further through the moisture-bearing ice plants except some parts of the fencing.

The Fire Department officials of California are now encouraging families and homeowners to plant cacti and other succulents. They also issue brochures on which plants to use outside and near the surroundings of their houses, determining the effectiveness of each plant. Edgar Lobst, a botanist at the Los Angeles Garden Center said that after the fire in Oakland, seven years later, more and more people have been "fire-scaping" their properties using the hardy citizens of the deserts and arid regions of the world.

Lecture-series on cactus culture

IN conjunction with the 25th anniversary celebration of the Cactus and Succulent Society, a lecture-series on the different aspects of growing cacti and other succulents for practical uses, will be held Dec. 6-15 during the Cactus Garden Show at the sunken garden fronting Quezon City Hall, QC.

The lecturers and their topics are: Dr. Virginia Evidente of Dagupan City on Uses of Cacti and Succulents as medicine, beauty aids and life savers, Dec. 6; Lily Ann Tan Manzano and Peter Bangayan, cactus cooking and recipes, Dec. 7; Nonoy Sionosa, general care of cacti and other succulents, Dec. 8; and Kevin Belmonte, potting medium and containers, Dec. 9; Honesto Adviento, pests and diseases, Dec. 10; Anna Ruth Purificacion Conde, commercial propagation, Dec. 11; Danny Ang, aviary management, Dec. 12; Fely Gupit, succulents and natural stone arrangements, Dec. 13; Serapion Metilla, flower arrangements using succulents, Dec. 14; and Chit Rufo, dishgardening, Dec. 15.

To be held from 3 to 6 p.m., assorted giveaways will be raffled off after the demonstrations. Call 9264199/0917-5333809.

GROWING cacti and other succulents is a useful activity.

Faucets of great design, function and durability

MANY people these days involve themselves in the many facets of home decorating, to better personalize their homes. And one of the areas being given much attention is the bathroom.

This is only natural, as the bathroom is where most people start and end their days. To some, the bathroom is also a place of solace and relaxation.

Essential to a successful bathroom design is choosing the right faucets. And no other faucet brand reflects the true taste of today's bathroom trends than Grohe faucets.

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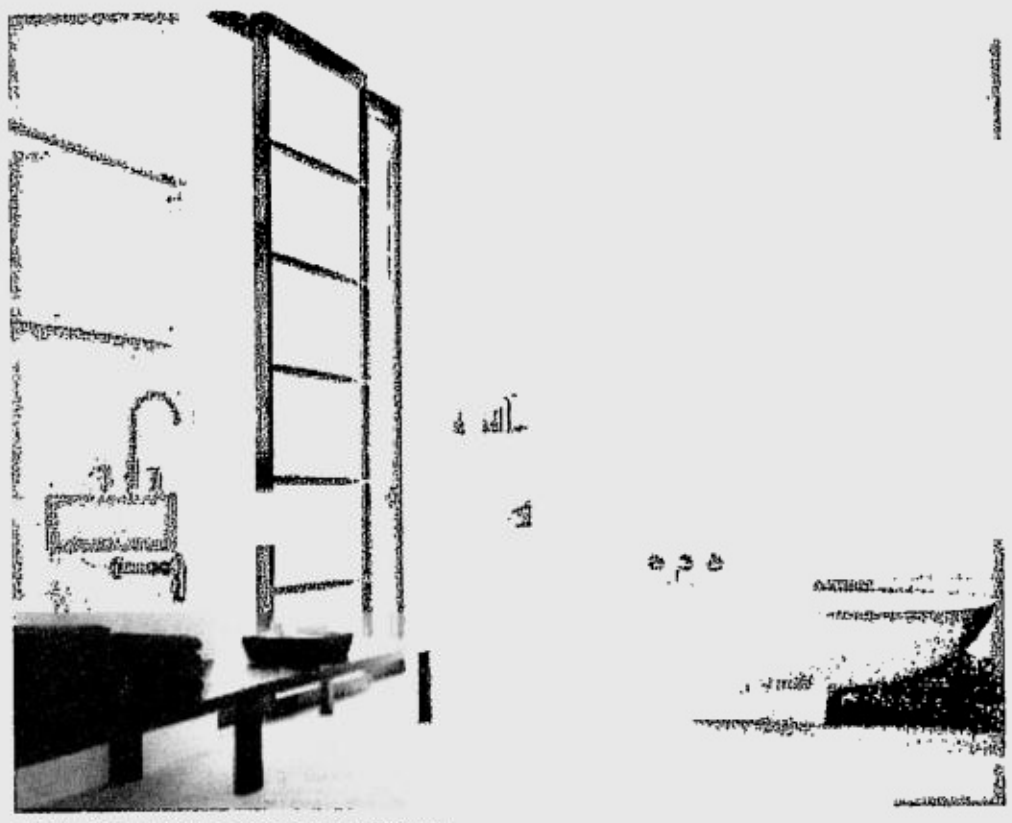

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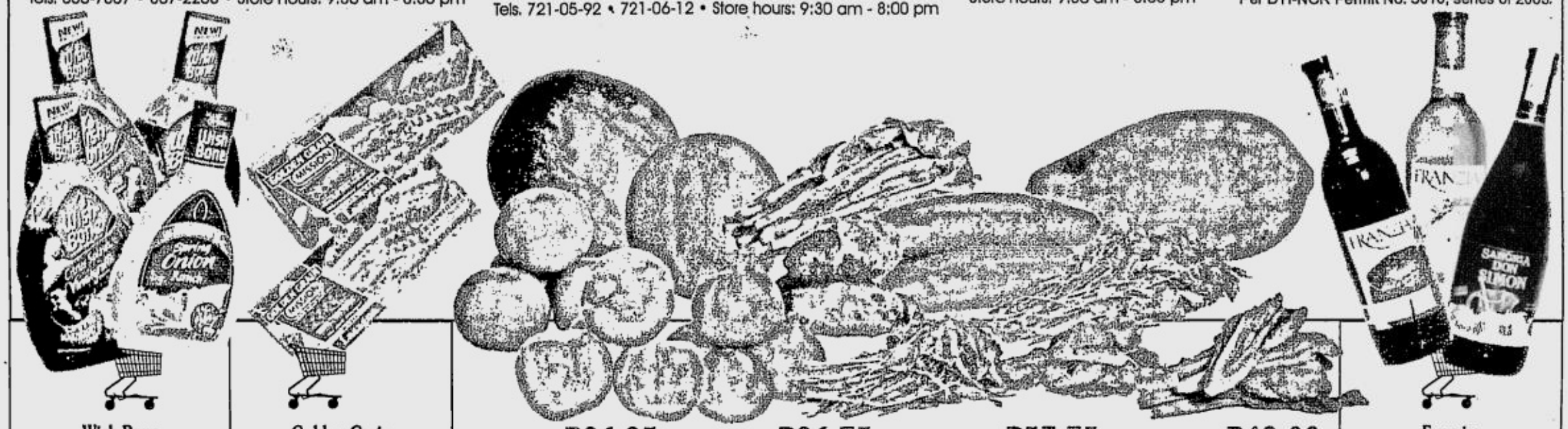
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5010, series of 2003.



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Citrus Splash Vinagrette, Balsamic Italian Vinagrette, Lemon Garlic Herb Vinagrette, Ranch Chunky Blue Cheese, J2G Blue Cheese, Spring Onion Ranch, Garlic Ranch, Garlic Vinegar
454g ₱140.50 /bot

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Lasagna
227g ₱57.50 /box
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Franzia
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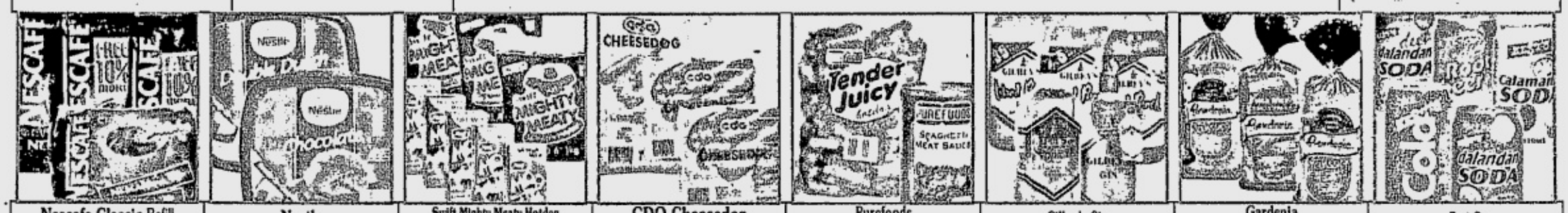
750ml ₱149.00 /bot

Don Simon
Sangria
1L ₱108.50 /bot



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Swift Mighty Meaty Hotdog
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Choco-Melon, Ube, Strawberry, Vanilla
250ml ₱12.10/reg

CDO Cheesedog
Regular 250g ₱31.90/pk
Jumbo 4.5 500g ₱62.80/pk
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Purefoods
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Rambutan w/ Pineapple 565g ₱35.50/can

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Crumpy
Bread Spread Duo, Choco, Nut 400g ₱75.50/bot

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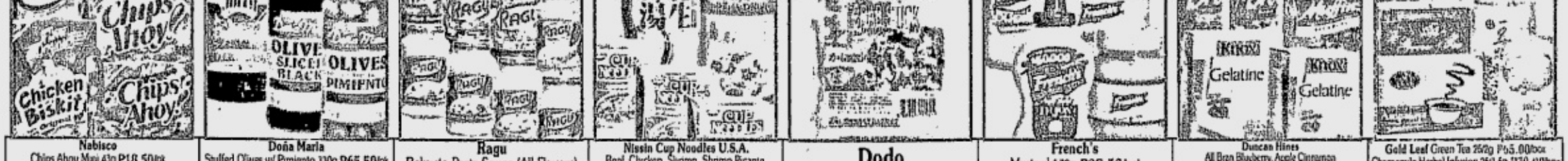

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Jolly
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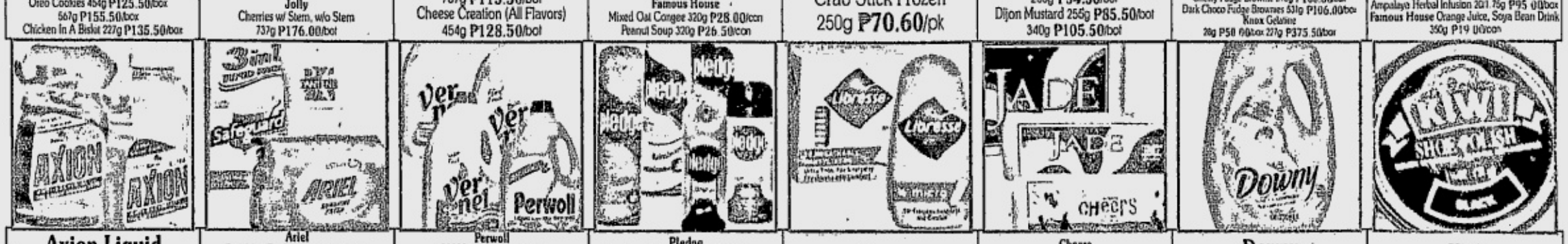

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Fabric Softener April Fresh 1.92kg ₱202.00/jug

Kiwi
Shoe Paste U.S. Black, Brown 32g ₱40.90/pc

More Unesco survey reports coming in

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THE FINDINGS of the survey on the state of Philippine environment, which appeared in this column on Aug. 22 ("Unesco Audits Philippine Environment") was an initial report sent by Leonarda Camacho, Unesco Philippines Commissioner for Science and Technology. At the time, reports from different provinces, cities and municipalities of the country were coming in by trickles. But there was need to gather what she could prior to her trip to Paris, France, where the annual meeting of her particular commission was held.

Since then, 80 percent of the reports from 79 provinces, 1,496 municipalities and 115 cities under survey have come in. And while not complete, Camacho wants the information out so Filipinos can understand the environmental picture of the country as it unfolds. The complete report will be out, she says, by the end of December, which she will distribute to all concerned government and public offices and private agencies and individuals.

It must be noted that this audit is being undertaken on Camacho's own initiative, not through funding from outside sources, public or private. She simply feels that "our policies, plans and programs will all be a guessing game unless we know where we are starting from and where we want to go." The survey forms were prepared with the help of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and sent out last May for all concerned provincial, municipal and city officials as well as civic organizations to fill up.

Good news

In this second report, Camacho divides the findings into good and bad. The good news include the efforts of communities in Maguindanao to prevent soil erosion in their area. The people weave coir mats and place them on eroding roads and highways. They also use vetiver grass (known for its fragrant roots and used for making mats) for the same purpose. They are also conserving 30,000 hectares of wetlands.

In Panay Island, communities are successfully maintaining seed banks for the propagation of indigenous trees. They are helped out by the Philippine Endemic Species Conservation Project of Germany.

Batanes and Catanduanes report their mountains, forests and rivers are still pristine.

In Tayabas Bay, Quezon, the local government is transplanting corals to replace those that were destroyed by cyanide fishing.

In the small island of Hingutanan, Bien Unido, Bohol, there are two water tanks run by solar energy. About 3,000 residents are provided with water from this solar-operated reservoir.

In Maqueda Bay, Samar (beneficiary of conservation and livelihood training projects jointly supervised by the Philippine Business for Social Progress and Makati Garden Club), 91 hectares of mangroves have been planted to rehabilitate them.

Still intact despite threats of degradation caused by two mining companies, is the Caraballo Range in Nueva Vizcaya. The gold and copper in the area are avidly sought by mining companies, but the local communities are fighting hard to stave them off, preferring to continue planting citrus trees.

Bad news

Listed under bad news is the condition of the "pygmy forest" in the border of Mati and San Isidro, Davao Oriental. Pygmy forests are prehistoric and thus, very rare. They are also known as "bonsai forests" because trees and plants that grow there are predominantly the dwarf varieties. The reason for this phenomenon is the rich lodes of cobalt under the ground. But this is also the reason why a foreign mining company and some local officials are said to be moving heaven and earth to mine the area, despite the dangers this poses on the environment and health of the people.

Another cause for alarm is the state of environmental degradation in places in Palawan that were mined for nickel ore in the past 25 years. The degradation has caused health problems and poverty among community folk. To add to their dilemma, the people now also face the prospect of having a hydrometallurgical plant built in their midst, and this will very likely happen if those companies and some government officials have their way. "This is an environmental disaster waiting to happen," Camacho laments. She hopes people will realize that the danger they pose will be greater than any profit they will make.

In Paracale, Camarines Norte, a similar situation exists. An alleged illegal and unlicensed gold processing plant has been engaged for the past 10 years in making money to the detriment of the people's health. Camacho wonders if the government is not aware of this.

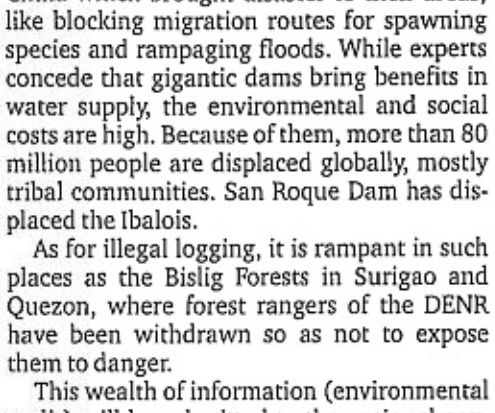
The Unesco audit has also uncovered the fact that there are howls of protest from environmentalists concerning the San Roque Dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan. Big dams, they say, tend to wreak greater havoc than small ones. To prove this, the report cited the Aswan Dam in Egypt and Three Gorges in China which brought disaster to their areas, like blocking migration routes for spawning species and rampaging floods. While experts concede that gigantic dams bring benefits in water supply, the environmental and social costs are high. Because of them, more than 80 million people are displaced globally, mostly tribal communities. San Roque Dam has displaced the Ibalois.

As for illegal logging, it is rampant in such places as the Bislig Forests in Surigao and Quezon, where forest rangers of the DENR have been withdrawn so as not to expose them to danger.

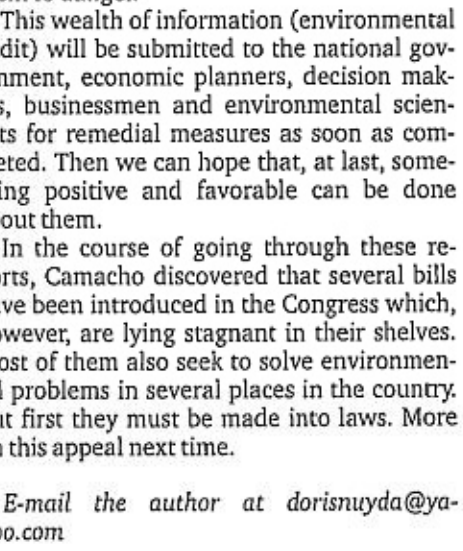
This wealth of information (environmental audit) will be submitted to the national government, economic planners, decision makers, businessmen and environmental scientists for remedial measures as soon as completed. Then we can hope that, at last, something positive and favorable can be done about them.

In the course of going through these reports, Camacho discovered that several bills have been introduced in the Congress which, however, are lying stagnant in their shelves. Most of them also seek to solve environmental problems in several places in the country. But first they must be made into laws. More on this appeal next time.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com



"STILL Life by the Sea"

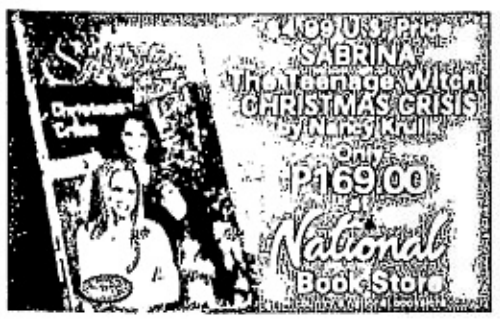


"BIG Catch '03"

Edgar Doctor exhibits in General Santos

TOP artist Edgar Doctor exhibits his latest watercolors in "Biyaya ng Langit" starting today until tomorrow at the East Asia Royale Hotel in General Santos City.

Doctor is well regarded by critics such as Leonides Benesa and Rod Paras Perez as a supreme watercolorist. Call (083)5534129 and 3024121.



Trend Spotting

For exclusive eyes only

Cartier shows its Top 20 high-jewelry pieces for Manila's Top 40

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

ON GARY: Tank Divan watch in white gold. On Bianca: Molecule d'Adrenaline necklace in white gold with rock crystals and diamonds, ring and earrings from the Myst Collection, and Baignoire Allongee watch in yellow gold with diamonds

EVERYTHING was in place—from the china to the silver and the crystals down to the floral centerpieces. The mistress of the North Forbes mansion quietly oversaw the last-minute details as Rustan's execs made final adjustments to the seating arrangements.

One evening last week, Cartier Far East managing director Maxime Elgue and assistant public relations manager Carmen Gomez Menor brought over 20 pieces of the prestigious French jewelry house for a private viewing of Manila's perfumed set.

The place cards bore the names of 40 of Manila's more prominent society figures. In the foyer, a pianist masterfully tapped away at the grand piano. Five models, four females and one male, gave the media a preview of the fabulous baubles to be presented that evening.

The jewelry pieces were samplings from Cartier's most opulent and classic collections. "It is called high jewelry," explained Elgue. "This is the highest form [of jewelry] that we can create."

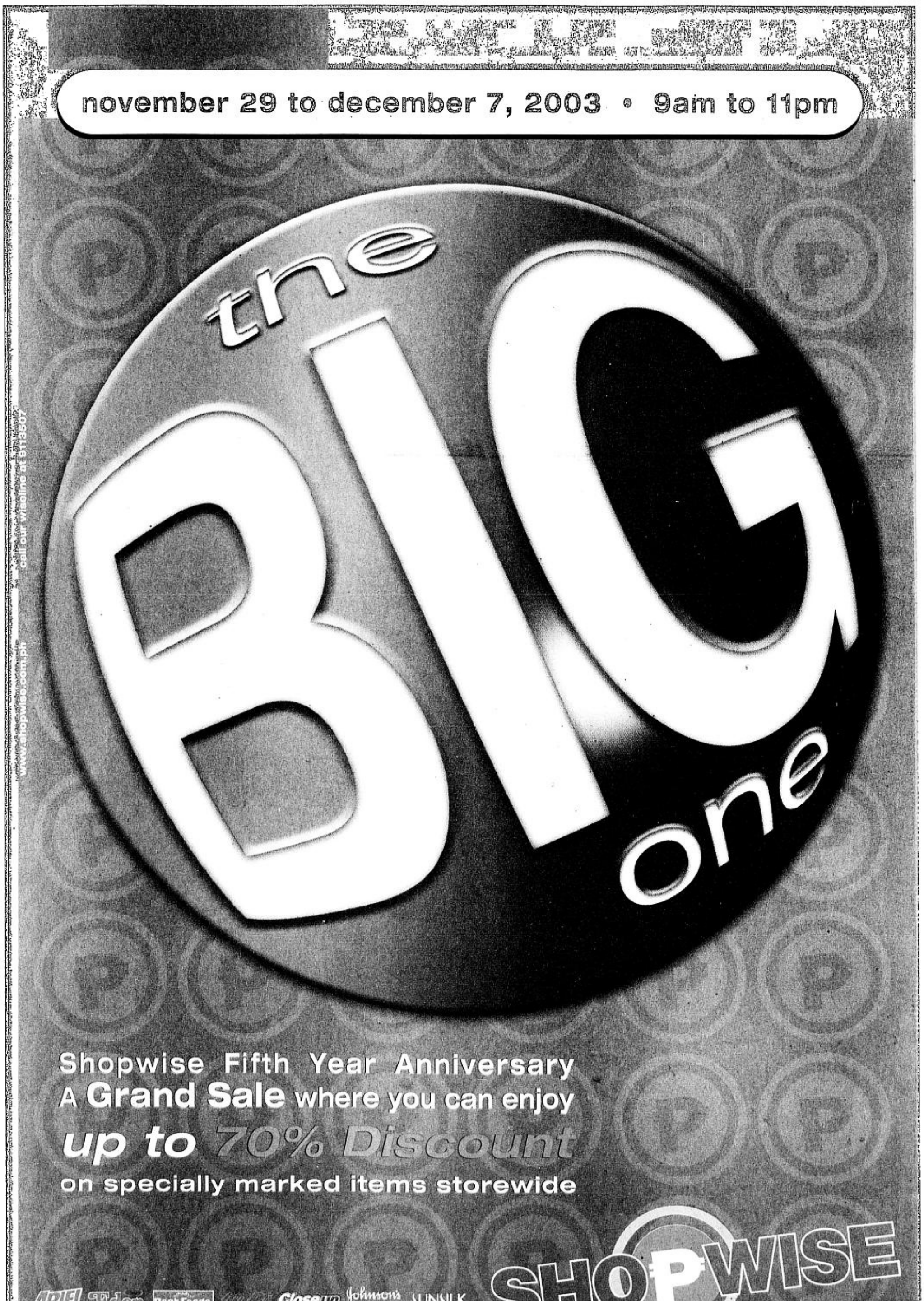
Cartier's high jewelry pieces are handcrafted, thus each is unique and one of a kind. "Some of these pieces haven't been seen in Manila," Elgue said.

Among the awe-inspiring creations was the Satine necklace, an elegant lace-like design of white gold set with white diamonds in classic brilliant, pear and marquis cuts. The fishnet-pattern Resille necklace and bracelet in white gold set with 345 diamonds was reportedly also among the night's favorites. Cartier's most coveted jewelry watches, like the diamond-studded Baignoire Allongee and the men's Tank Divan, were also shown.

Filipinos, Elgue observed, like jewelry that they can wear every day. They are somewhat conservative so that colored stones are not highly popular among them. Though Filipinos seem partial to yellow gold, he said, they also like white diamonds.

The Philippine market is decidedly traditional in tastes, Elgue opined, but even Cartier, a jewelry institution for 150 years, is now taking into account the demands of the growing younger market. "We cannot live in the past," he said.

FOR EXCLUSIVE/I4



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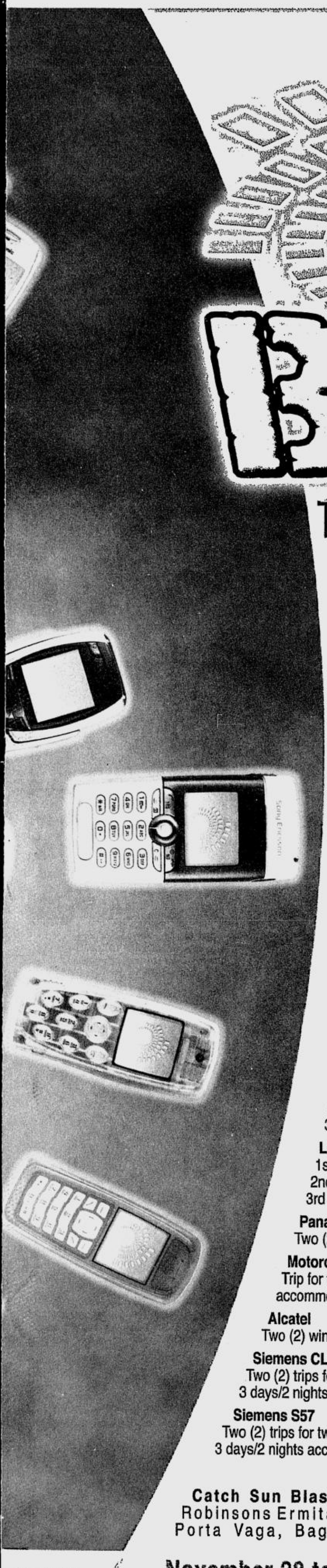

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2nd Prize: 0.21 cubic m (7 cubic ft) LG Refrigerator
3rd Prize: LG W3000 Mobile phone

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Alcatel
Two (2) winners of One-Touch 535 Mobile phones.

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See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3547, Series of 2003.

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For exclusive eyes only

ON ANGEL: Necklace, ring and bracelet in white gold with white diamonds from the Satine Collection, and Twist Watch in white gold with diamonds. On Bianca: Meli Melo necklace in white gold and multicolored stones, Meli Melo earrings in platinum with multicolored stones, and Tank Americaine watch in white gold with diamonds and pink sapphire

From page 11

Modern, younger

Next year, Cartier will launch a modern, younger and more affordable line using colored stones. As foretaste of things to come, the Meli Melo necklace and earrings with multicolored stones like chalcedony, aquamarine, tourmaline, garnet and diamonds were displayed.

"The Philippines has natural growth; there's a lot of younger people," Elgue said. "It's not huge, but it's a dynamic and growing market."

Cartier is so optimistic about the market that the week after the Oakwood mutiny in July, it launched in Manila its Chinese-inspired collection called Kiss of the Dragon. A few pieces from that collection were also shown last week.

"We take inspirations from different places, like Egypt, China, India... but they have to be relevant to the whole world," Elgue said.

Cartier is proud of its time-honored tradition of jewelry-making, and sticks to conventional approaches to the luxury trade. The company opts for traditional ways of launching products, like the intimate dinner in North Forbes.

But it is also quite open-minded about the lifestyle of its contemporary clientele. "You can wear jeans and wear a Cartier," noted Elgue.

The French jeweler bears the tag "the king of jewelers and the jeweler of kings," but is modest enough to acknowledge buyers' varying tastes and the market's shifting trends. Elgue acknowledges the competition, but is unfazed.

"People no longer go for one brand alone, unlike before when they would only wear Cartier," Elgue shrugged. "They buy what they want; what they can't find in one brand, they find in another brand. There's room for everybody. We have different styles. We do things differently."

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

TREFLE ring in white gold with white diamonds

NECKLACE and bracelet of white gold and white diamonds from the Resille Collection, Denteller ring in platinum with diamonds, and Himalia watch in white gold with diamonds

C DE CARTIER necklace in white gold with diamonds, Calice ring in white gold with diamonds and Tonneau Arrondie watch in white gold with diamonds

NECKLACE with cross pendant and ring in yellow gold with diamonds, and Déclaration watch in yellow gold with diamonds

LE Baiser du Dragon (Kiss of the Dragon) collection

Now, a mouthwash for clean, tartar-free* teeth.

New Tartar Control Listerine with Zinc Chloride. It fights tartar bu... that traps germs and stains. It also prevents plaque from turning into yellow, crusty tartar. Plus, it contains the Listerine power to kill 99.9%** of mouth germs. That's two times the power you need to keep your teeth looking their best.

Visual representation of teeth with tartar

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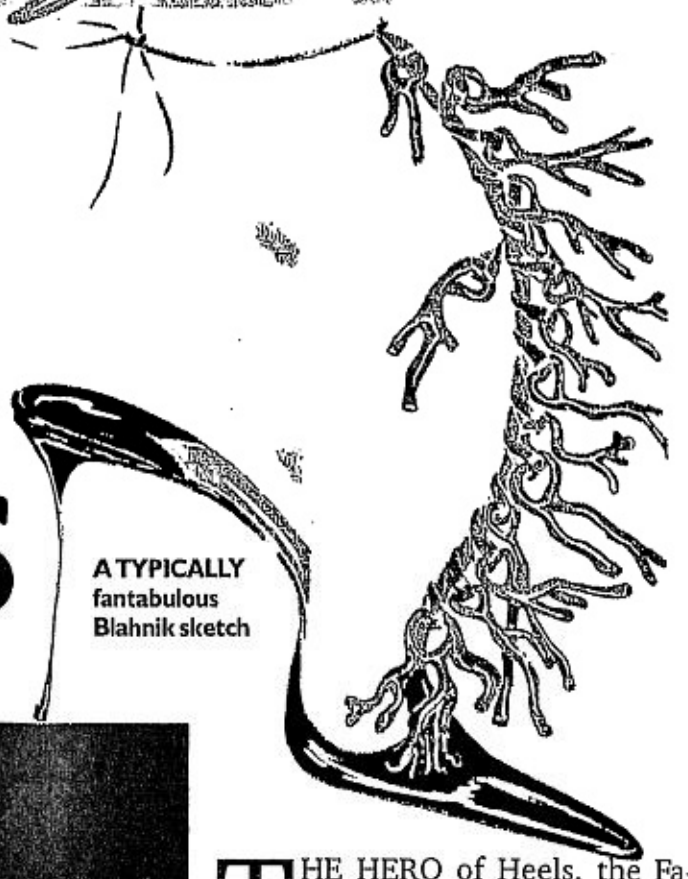
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Trend Control LIFESTYLE

High on Manolos



A TYPICALLY fantabulous Blahnik sketch

THESE SHOES ARE MADE FOR SIGNING. Manolo Blahnik autographs a masterpiece.

THE HERO of Heels, the Father of Sky-rise Stilettos, the Shoemaker to the Stars—who else would that be but Manolo Blahnik?

For 30 years, the same label has been adorning the soles and heels of countless celebrities, turning jeweled, diamond-embedded, patchwork leather and multi-strapped masterpieces into wardrobe must-haves.

On the footwear king's 30th year in the shoe business, New York's trendiest threw Blahnik a well-attended soiree in lieu of his scene-stealing shoes.

In "A Celebration of Design," Blahnik fans, fetishists and friends all found a home for all their footwear fantasies. "Blahnik's shoes are better than sex because they last longer," quipped Madonna in her usual controversial tone.

But if there's anyone who shares the claim to footwear fame with Blahnik, it has to be his No. 1 devotee and disciple, "Sex and the City" star Sarah Jessica Parker.

With shoe spiels littering the singlehood

HIGH/ J2

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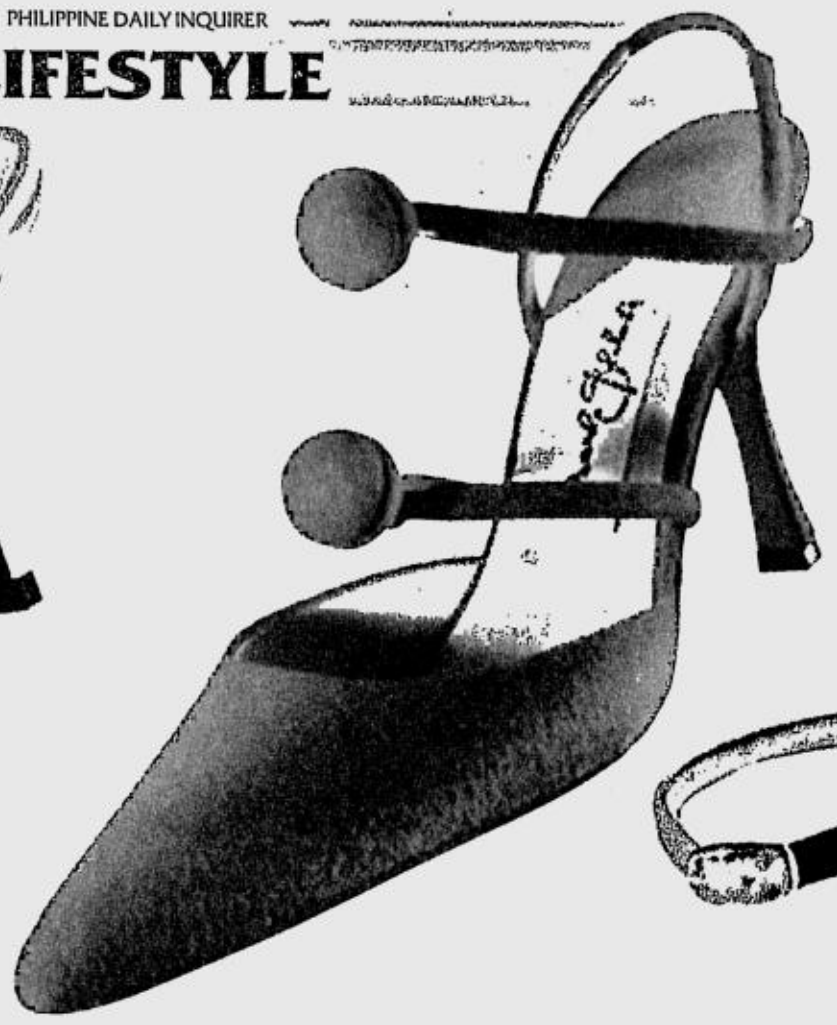
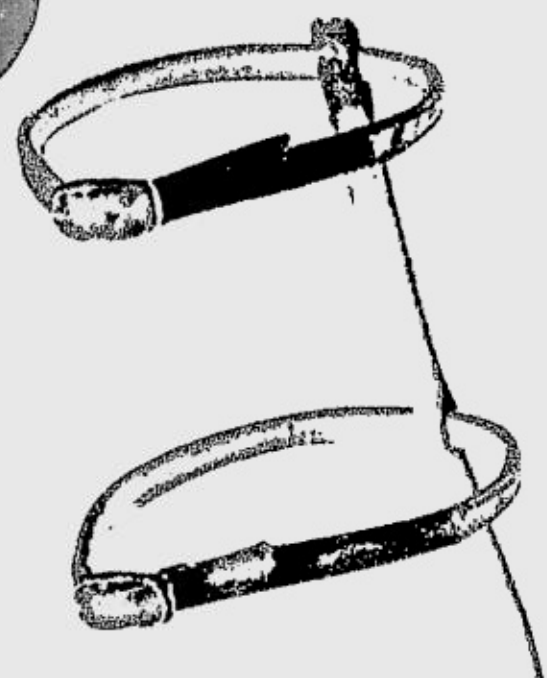
VITALE
three-band slide



ALGERIA
halter sandal



SCHIAFO
beaded mule

High on Manolos

From page J1

satire season after season, Parker lived a memorable moment in footwear history when she awarded Blahnik the Footwear Designer of the Year award.

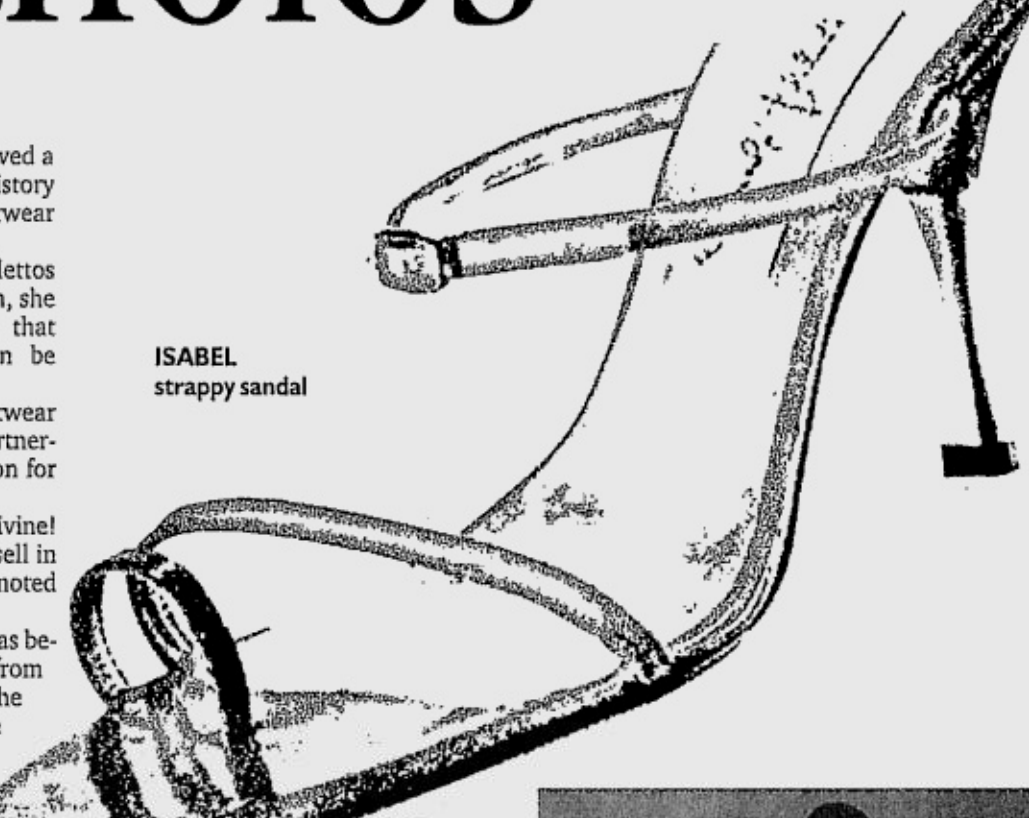
Wearing high-rise Blahnik stilettos and a fabulous YSL maternity gown, she said, "Most marriages don't last that long, but with Blahnik, you can be monogamous."

Indeed a wedding made in footwear heaven, the Blahnik-Bradshaw partnership has been a source of inspiration for the 60-something designer.

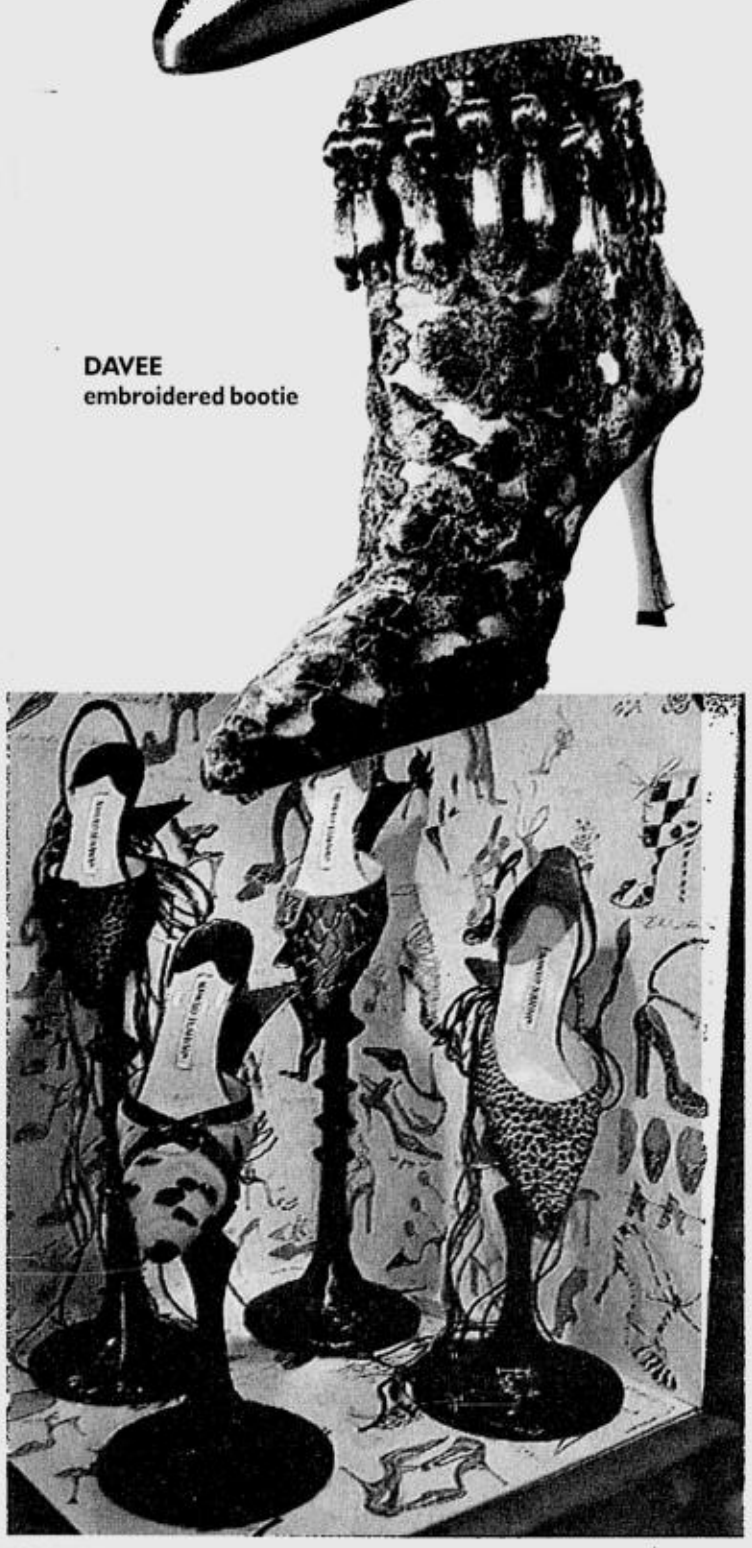
"I love that woman! She's divine! Without her, I wouldn't be able to sell in America the way we do," Blahnik noted in his Spanish-chic accent.

Wish, the luxury lifestyle store, has bejeweled its shoe racks with heels from the fabulous Manolo collection. The new shipment has arrived, and the shoes of the city are set to sparkle.

Wish is located on the ground level, Makati Shangri-La Shopping Arcade, Ayala Avenue, Makati.



ISABEL
strappy sandal



DAVEE
embroidered bootie

FOOTWEAR fit for royalty

TINELU
ankle-strap pump

SHOES and the city

WESLEY
Gonzales
in Durango
by Florsheim

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FLORSHEIM is a brand that understands men's needs and is designed to keep up with their active lifestyle.

The brand can be counted on to provide a versatile line of high quality men's footwear, including casual shoes, business footwear, dress boots and designer men's shoes.

Ateneo Blue Eagles' Wesley Gonzales, for instance, finds in his Florsheims a pair of shoes that matches his simple yet classy and comfortable style.

It's important for his shoes to "give (me) comfort and make (me) presentable in my active everyday life," says Gonzales.

The same goes for Anthony Suntay, marketing manager for Sports Kamp at the Fort, a sports facility that's soon to open.

"In my career, one doesn't have to dress up lavishly to stand out," he says. "Florsheim helps me go about my daily activities with ease and comfort."

With Florsheim's extensive line of elegant footwear, there is a pair to match every man's busy and demanding lifestyle, so that he can always exude relaxed confidence and be ready to take on any challenges.

Florsheim is located at the Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center, Powerplant Mall in Rockwell, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Alabang Town Center, Festival Super Mall and Ayala Center Cebu.

ANTHONY
Suntay
in Bridgeport
by Florsheim

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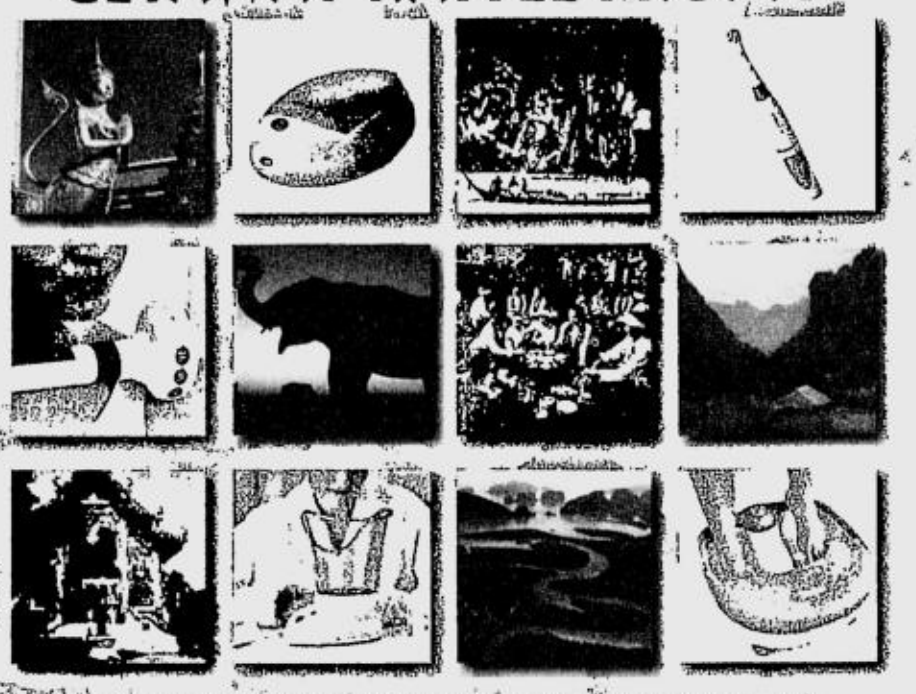

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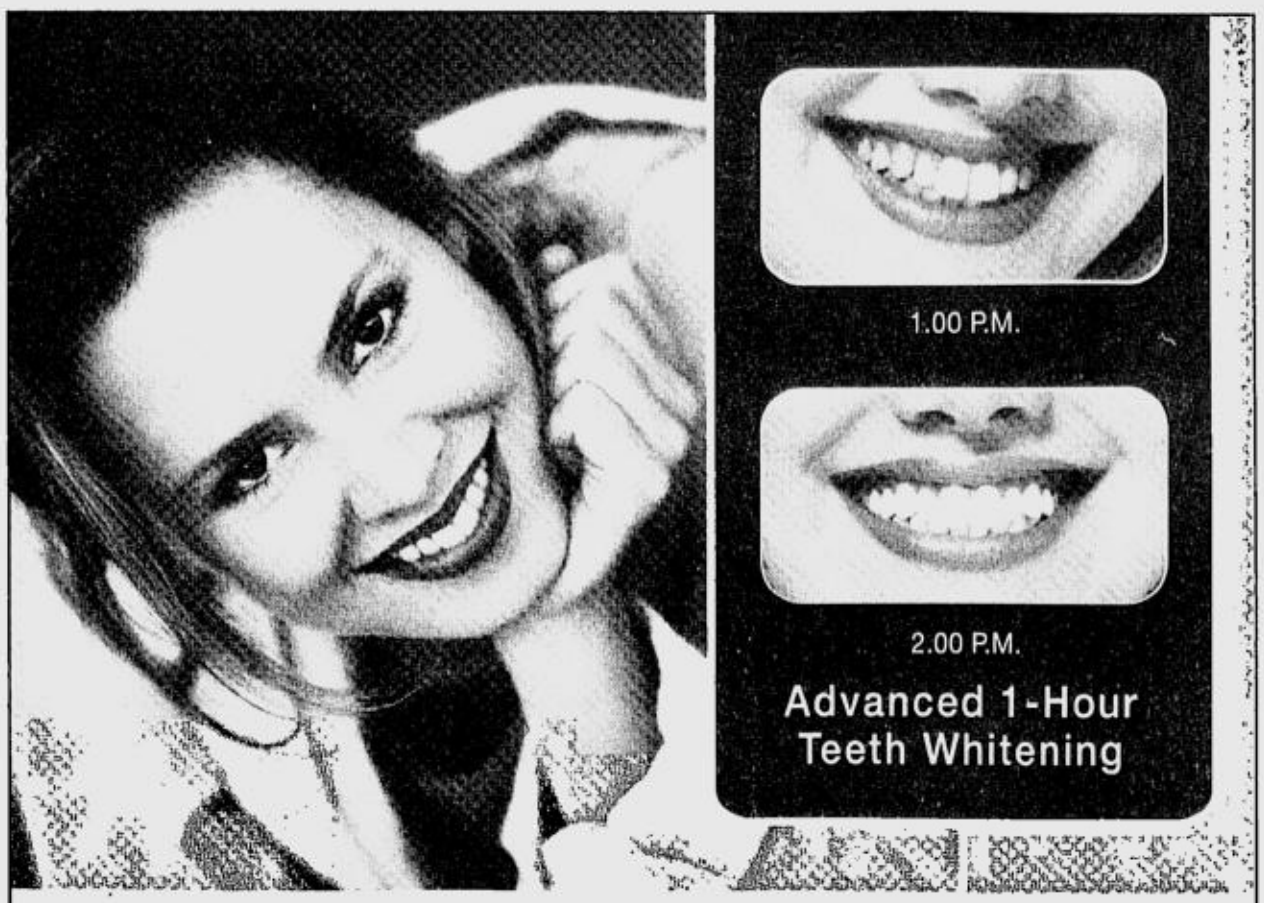

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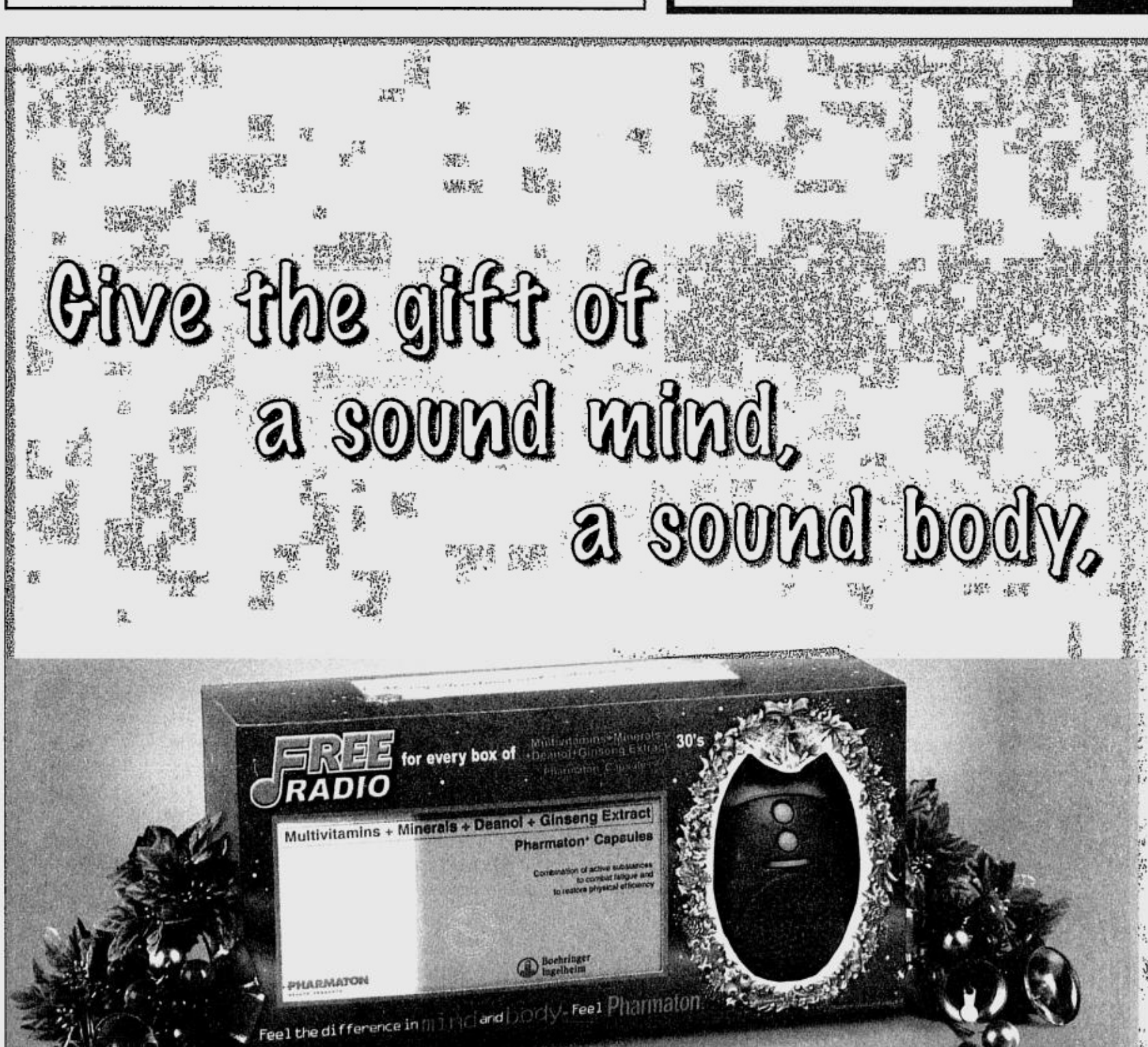

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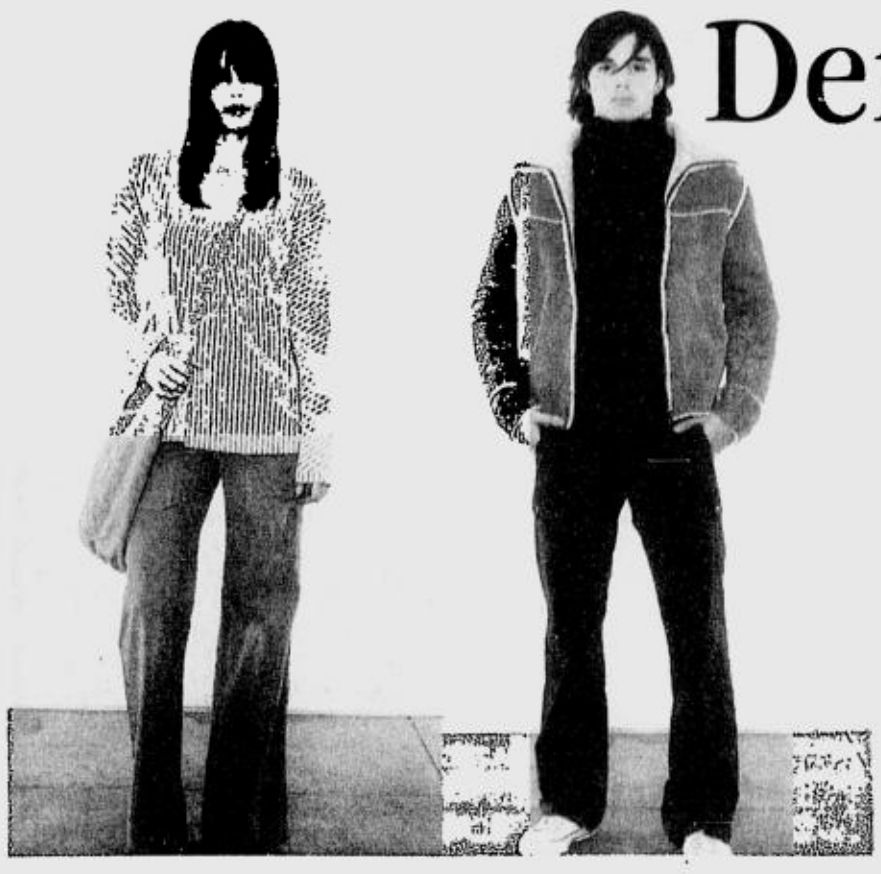
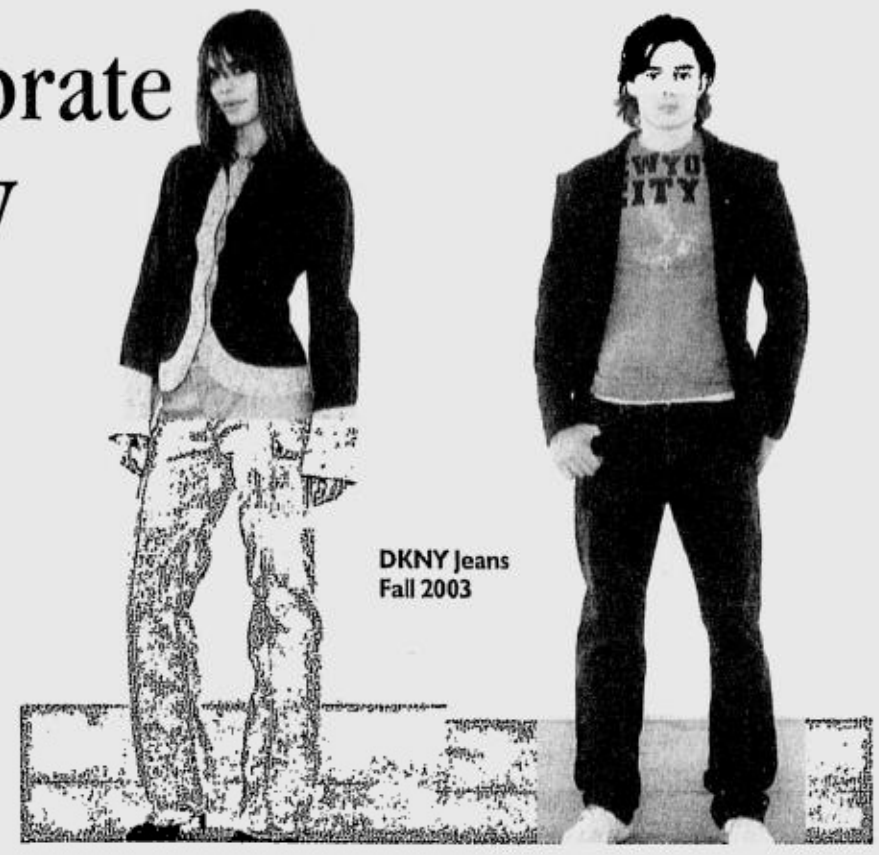




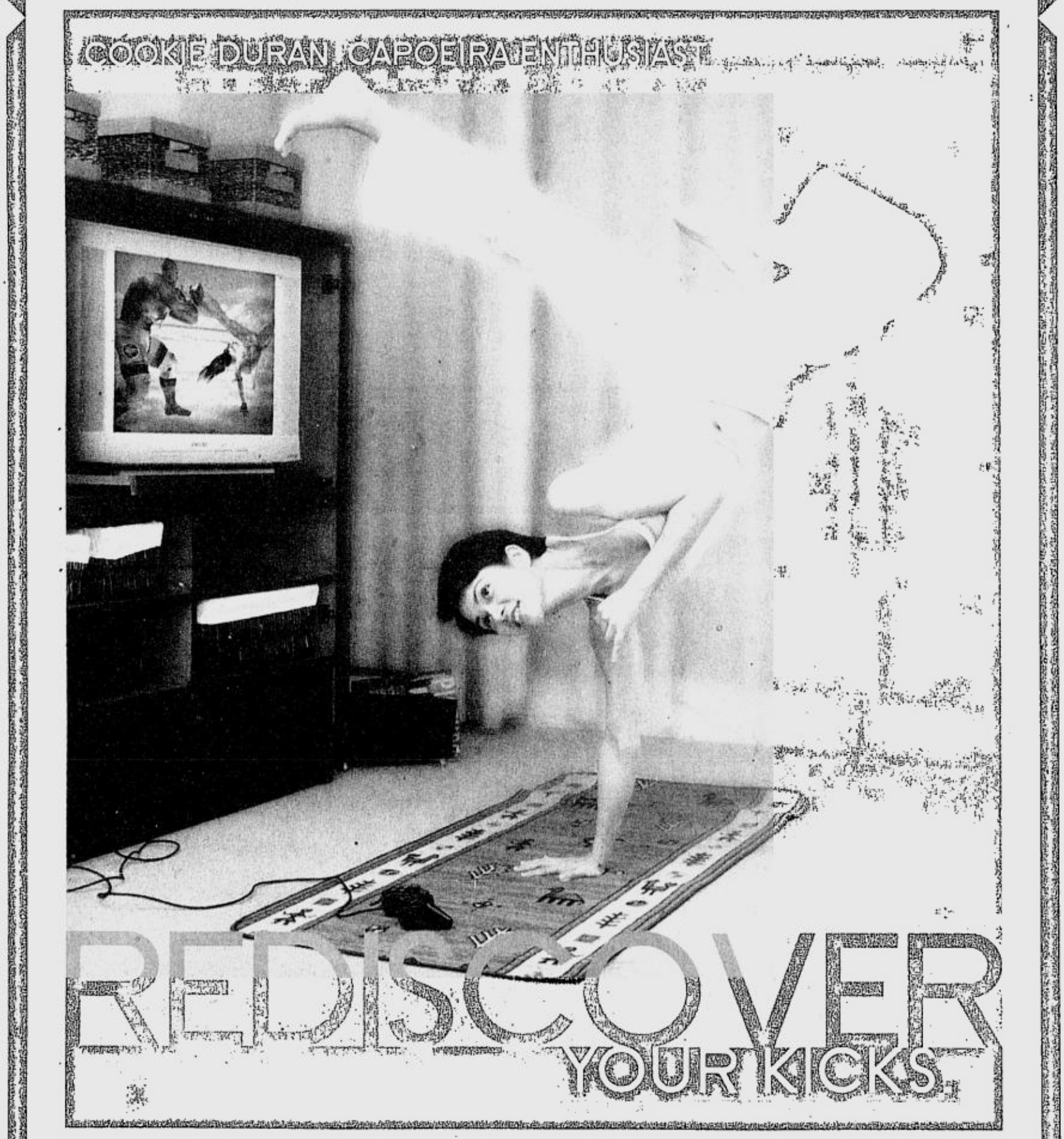
DKNY Jeans
Fall 2003

THIS century's greatest fabric—denim—gets a much needed facelift this season.

But instead of coming in space-age textures and cuts, DKNY Jeans, New York's very own denim authority, turns to a time when jeans were well-washed, well-worn and of course, well-fitted.

DKNY Jeans Fall 2003 collection celebrates once again New York's diversity and eclecticism. By combining the luxury of times past with the modern cuts and silhouettes of the present, it is sure to strike a resounding chord for the future of denim.

DKNY Jeans is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. and is located at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall, 158 Designers' Blvd., Alabang Town Center, Robinsons Place Manila and Rustan's Department Store in Makati.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4520 Series of 2003.

The Shopping Kicks of Cookie Duran

Cookie Duran is an IT consultant by day but come night, this girl embraces another kind of passion. From the realms of mouse clicks, Cookie surrenders to sessions of tumbles and kicks. She is obsessed about Capoeira, the centuries-old Brazilian game that combines martial art and dance. After learning the sport in Singapore, Cookie was the driving force behind the introduction of capoeira to the Philippines. She invested her personal time, money, and energy into kick-starting the capoeira movement in Manila. In fact, Cookie converted her family, friends, co-workers and even her fiancé into capoeiristas!

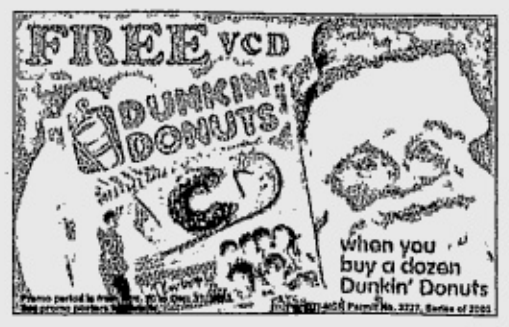
It comes as no surprise then that the items on her shopping list have to do with capoeira. First on Cookie's list are two roundtrip tickets to Brazil, a country she has yet to set foot on and conquer with her fiancé. Aside from Rio de Janeiro, Bahia is also an ideal destination since it is where capoeira originated. A sidetrip to Brasilia also comes to mind since this is the hometown of her capoeira instructor. Needless to say, Brazil would truly provide a memorable backdrop for her honeymoon.

Next on Cookie's shopping list is signing up for Portuguese language lessons. Since Capoeira utilizes Brazilian-Portugese terms, it comes naturally that Cookie desires to speak the language to better teach her sport. And after the fancy for fluency, Cookie's next move is to purchase capoeira accessories, including its unique attire. Capoeiristas are clad in clothing made from a particular kind of fabric, which Cookie has yet to find here in Manila.

Last but certainly not the least, Cookie wants to buy Zen-inspire furniture for her new home. She and her fiancé prefer the minimalist style in decorating her abode. For Cookie, comfort and functionality are qualities her house fixtures must provide.

So drop your defenses and surrender to your desires. Like Cookie, pack in more power in every shopping move with the RED MasterCard from HSBC. Shopping treats are now within reach because of RED Instalment, its 0% Instalment Plan available in leading women's stores, including all Stores Specialists Inc. outlets.

ADVT.



MAD Gab's Elephant Lubes

The scented way to relaxing and feeling good

These all-natural face and body products are gentle enough to use on babies, and some serve multiple purposes

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

SCENT is my fetish, particularly those with therapeutic and mood-enhancing properties. As an insomniac, I have mood swings as a result of sleep deprivation. The old me would pop a sleeping pill to get some sleep and take coffee in the morning to get going.

I decided to explore all natural and non-addictive methods like aromatherapy, and now I am hooked without jeopardizing my health.

The all-natural face and body products I will feature today are gentle enough to use on babies; some serve multiple purposes. The common factor is that they were invented by people who dabble in herbs and natural remedies.

Badger Balms

This was invented by carpenter Bill Badger in 1993 initially to soothe his chapped hands, but then evolved into a whole line for people with different needs. This has the cutest animated packaging design and all products have extra virgin olive oil.

The best buy is the **Beauteous Box & Three Bold Balms** for P695 for first-time buyers. It has **Sleep Balm**, which contains lavender, ginger and rosemary to be applied on pulse points, lips and under the nose.

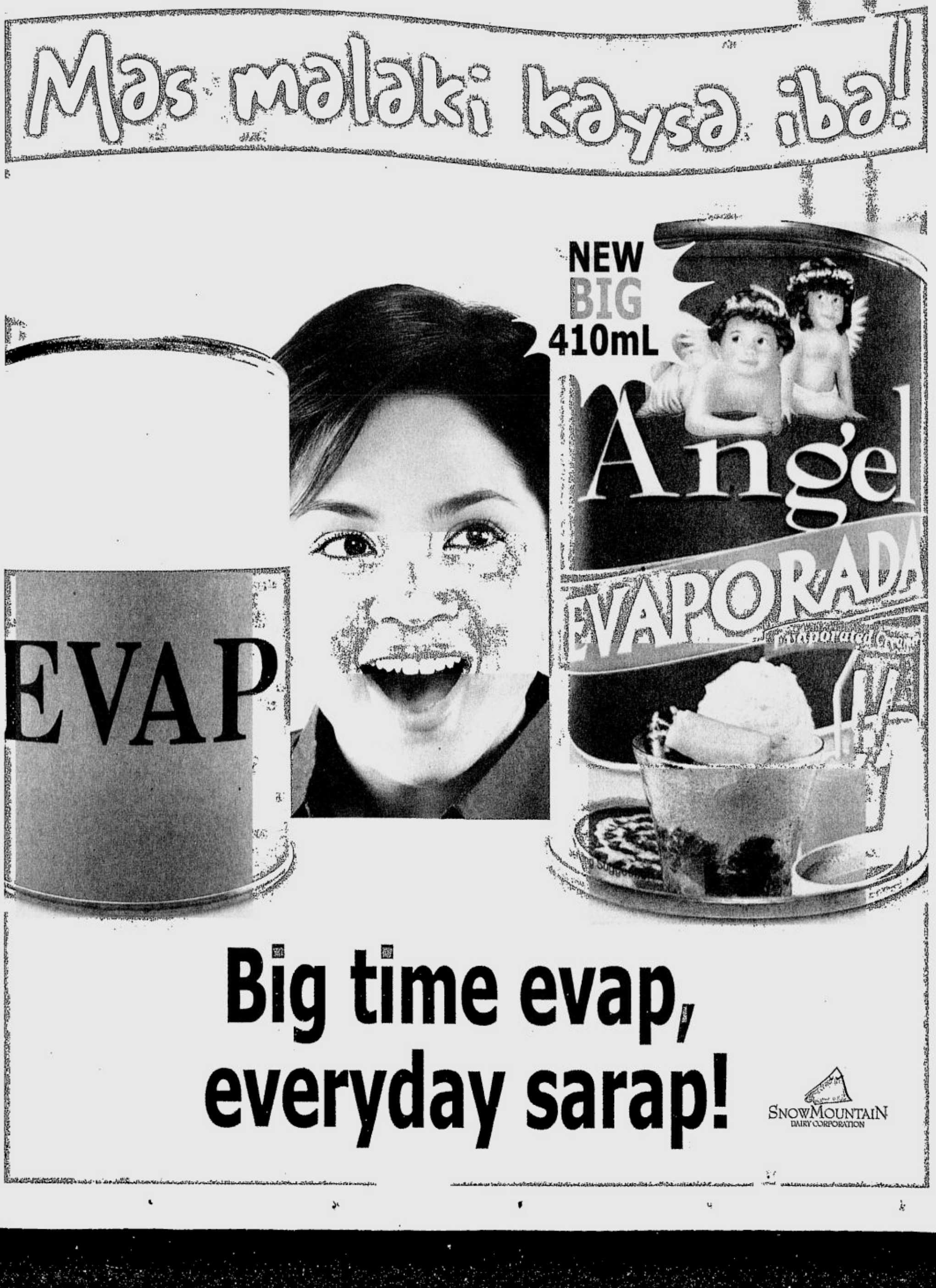
It's also a powerful sleep inducer; it knocked a couple of my friends out, but in my case, my mind kept running even when it relaxed me. I found this helped me concentrate while working, and I actually plowed through my paperwork and retained the information I read.

Turns out this was the original purpose of the invention, but everyone told Mr. Badger it also helped them sleep, hence the name.

Healing Balm—the original balm used to heal and soothe Badger's chapped hands. It smells very pleasant and calming and can be used on lips, heels, elbows and other dry thick areas.

Sore Muscles Rub—for post workout pain, plus the smell of ginger and warmth of cayenne just wake you up and energize your being.

Other raves: **Anti-Bug Balm**—insect repellant, and also soothes bug bites. **Baby Balm**—for nappy rash, cradle cap, baby's delicate skin (combined with **Winter Balm**, this makes me sleep like a baby). Winter Balm is an all-natural version of Vicks for respiratory relief. Full size balms are P395.



FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: No matter what you do, you must pursue your own path. You are unique; you amaze others. Your personal philosophy is important. You know how to use humor to make a point. Many are unaware of your emotionally sensitive side; perhaps this explains your love of animals. This year wraps up a nine-year cycle in your life.
Birthdate of: Jon Stewart, comedian/actor; William Blake, poet/philosopher; Matt Williams, baseball player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's important to keep in mind that you have to establish a secure base for yourself at this stage in your life. Renovate, buy, sell or repair to stabilize your home.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Keep in mind that between 2003 and 2005, it is highly likely you will have a job change or make a residential move. This is probably triggered by major changes that in 1999.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): In 1986, you stepped out into the world. In the mid-'90s, you did yourself proud! Now it's time to figure out what you really want to do to earn a living.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Since last year, your life has taken a whole new path. Your optimism has returned. About a year from now, real estate and family will bless you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You are involved with romance at the moment. Similarly, enjoyment with children and the arts is a source of pleasure for you. Accept all invitations!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good time to take care of repairs at home. Similarly, repairs to family relationships will also be successful. Patch up, patch up, patch up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Continue to work hard, because your career is favored for the next few years. Now is the time to show the world what you can do.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Continue to focus on earnings and your general financial picture. This is a time of preparation before your rewards in 2005-2006.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Ever since 1994, you've tried to secure a home for yourself. In 1999, you stepped out on stage. Right now, much depends on you, because partners are changing jobs and the like.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is the year others have finally taken serious notice of you. You've gained power and prestige in their eyes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have to accept the fact that this is a time of hard work for you. Even if you feel overwhelmed, you must pursue your goals. Your rewards arrive in 2005-06.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your relationships with practically everyone are quite loving now. Serious partnerships are favored for the entire year ahead, and friendships are favored for this month.

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

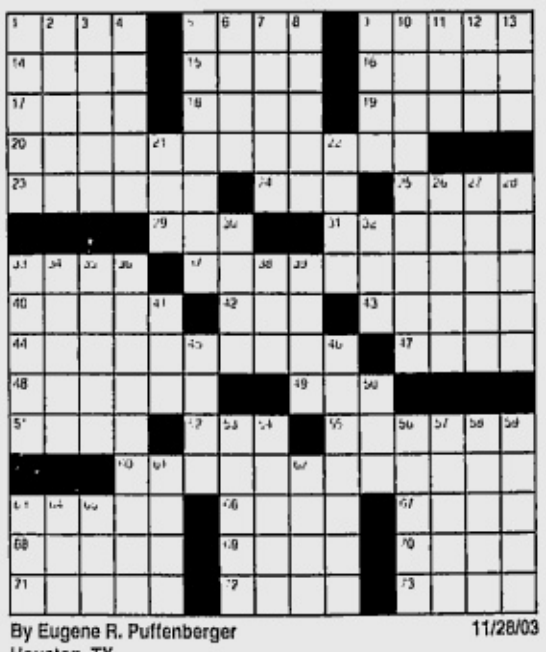
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
11/28/03

ACROSS
1 __ d'oeuvres
5 Old-time journalist Ernie
9 Plank
14 Plenty
15 VIP in a will
16 Foretell
17 Nastase of tennis
18 Petri dish medium
19 Cheap cigar
20 Warning sign
23 Put forward
24 __ Lanka
25 Dawber and Tillis
29 Stick up
31 Actress Renee
33 Carson's predecessor
37 Warning sign
40 Certain singers
42 Born in Bordeaux
43 Jackson or Owens
44 Warning sign
47 Close by
48 Cute foot
49 Opposite of NNW
51 Lessen
52 __ Cruces, NM
55 Dreaded African fly
60 Warning sign
63 Dislike intensely
66 Long period of time
67 Ski lift
68 Duly or Walsh
69 __ B'rith
70 Emerald Isle
71 Home of the Minotaur
72 Antitoxins
73 Preserving substance

DOWN
1 Israeli seaport
2 Earthenware crocks
3 Agitates
4 Inscribed stone
5 Apparition
6 Safecracker
7 Prevaricators
8 Miscue
9 Catch some rays
10 Frank and unreserved
11 In the past
12 Floor covering
13 Arid
21 Sale-tag abbr.
22 Aloha in Parma
26 Crop up
27 Table constellation
28 "Like a Rock" singer
30 Mercedes-__
32 Erving of hoops
33 Cheap jewelry
34 Major aluminum producer
35 __, Porthos and Aramis
36 Unearthed
38 Classical opener?
39 Harmless cysts
41 Distress signal
45 Singer Lovett
46 Baltic country
50 Double curve
53 Saudis and Omanis
54 Part of an act
56 Politician Kefauver
57 Shinbone
58 Entanglement
59 Everglades wader
61 __ Stanley Gardner
62 Leonine cry
63 Circle section
64 Courtroom railing
65 Weeding tool

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	L	S	A	■	L	O	B	A	R	■	W	I	S	P
R	I	M	S	■	E	D	E	M	A	■	O	D	O	R
I	F	I	H	A	V	E	T	O	C	H	O	O	S	E
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B	E	T	W	E	E	N	T	W	O	E	V	I	L	S
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I	H	A	V	E	N	T	T	R	I	E	D	Y	E	T
C	O	L	A	■	T	R	O	U	T	■	E	L	S	E
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11/28/03

Leading hair care and styling brand now in local salons

PAUL Mitchell, a leading brand of professional hair care and styling products in America, is now being offered in the Philippines.

Produced by John Paul Mitchell Systems, the brand consists of a complete four-step hair care system: Cleanse (mild and deep cleansing shampoos for all hair types), Condition (light and leave-on conditioners, detanglers and repair treatments), Style (gels, sprays and sculpting foam), and Finish (hair wax, hair shine and finishing sprays for soft, medium or firm hair).

All Paul Mitchell products leave hair healthy and shiny. They're made of natural ingredients and manufactured in the US and, best of all, are not tested on animals.

The products are sold exclusively at salons to emphasize Paul Mitchell's commitment to hairdressers. Mitchell believes that hairdressing is not about selling beauty products but providing the best hair-care services.

Paul Mitchell products are available at Emphasis and Basement Salons in Rockwell, Franck Provost in Jupiter Street, Makati and Alabang, De-Cut in Malate, Bambbi Fuentes Salon in Timog, Beauty Power, Grand Salon, Réver for David's, and all David's Salons.

ALL Paul Mitchell products are made of natural ingredients and leave hair healthy and shiny.

Grand sale of beauty products

HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives knows that some of the best gifts you can give your loved ones are those that provide pampering and well-being.

That's why it's offering its Best Buys exclusive products as alternative gift suggestions.

HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives' Best Buys comes in eight value packs—Full-Body Care Set, Hair and Body Care Kit, Cucumber Regimen Pack, Lemon Grass Foot Care Pack, Foot Care Relaxation Kit, Makeover Pack, Hair and Body Care Kit and Full Body Care Set.

These gift packs also include a large loofah from HBC Essentials, HBC Body Recipe's Dalandan Hair and Body Wash, and Dalandan Hand and Body Moisturizing Lotion.

HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives has over 90 branches nationwide, including newly opened stores in Muñoz in Quezon City, Greenlanes Beauty Central in Greenhills, Ayala MRT station in Makati, and Gaisano City Mall in Bacolod and Iloilo.

On Dec. 12-15, HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives offers up to 50 percent discount on all popular brands including HBC's own line of beauty products such as Body Recipe, Just B.U.G. (Between Us Girls) original scents and San-San Cosmetics. HBC also offers free gift items for every purchase of selected HBC products.

The Big Blow Out Sale will be held in all HBC outlets nationwide, including the newly opened HBC stores at Muñoz in Quezon City, Pavillion Mall in Laguna, Greenlanes Beauty Central in Greenhills, Puregold in Valenzuela, Bacoor, Cavite and Gaisano City Mall in Iloilo, Bacolod and Cebu.

The scented way . . .

From page K1

Mad Gab's

Gabrielle got an A for this class project in 1991 and since friends and neighbors were offering to buy it, she decided to make it a business. Her base ingredients are olive oil and shea butter.

Elephant Lubes—salves for fingers toes, elbows and even lips. Unlike Badger, this only has four concentrated scents, but they can be mixed and matched to get the effect you want. Apply to pulse points and under the nose to enjoy the benefits.

Lavender—induces sleep, insect repellant, eases depression/PMS and helps one relax.

Peppermint Sage—invigorates, relieves respiratory ailments (colds) and eases nausea.

Rosemary Lime—wakes a sluggish or distracted mind and helps one concentrate.

Citrus—stirs you up in the morning, promotes happy disposition and gives energy to exercise. Same price as Badger Balms.

Other raves: **Clean Candles**—burns free of lead and soot for 35 hours, so no toxins are released in the air. Gabrielle formulated this after she had her son to make his world safer.

The four variants are: unscented, Lavender, Geranium Grapefruit and Clove Almond Orange, which is my favorite. MG also has small-sized lip balms for P245 each in several flavors.

Farmaesthetics

Made with organically grown herbs and flowers harvested fresh from the Texas farm of Brenda Brock, and packaged in cobalt glass jars or rustic tins.

My favorites: **Deep Lavender Rub**—for respiratory conditions due to asthma, allergies and sinus, muscle pain, and great for soothing babies to sleep.

Eyebright—removes all eye makeup, prevents and softens fine lines, and soothes my eyestrain from reading and staring at the computer for long hours. **High Cotton Body Dust**—this talc-free powder with thyme, lavender and sage is an anti-microbial, deodorizing antiperspirant. Perfect in preventing nappy rash in babies and keeping them feeling fresh and dry.

Nourishing Lavender Milk—Farmaesthetics' most famous product along with the Lavender Rub. It can be used for face and body and for babies. It's known for its hydrating and healing properties, as it hastens healing from sunburn, eczema, and dermatitis. Dermatologists recommend this for burns and even skin damaged by cosmetic surgery and laser treatments. This is the most expensive line among the three, but has the most selection for face and body care.

All products available at Essences, Rustan's.

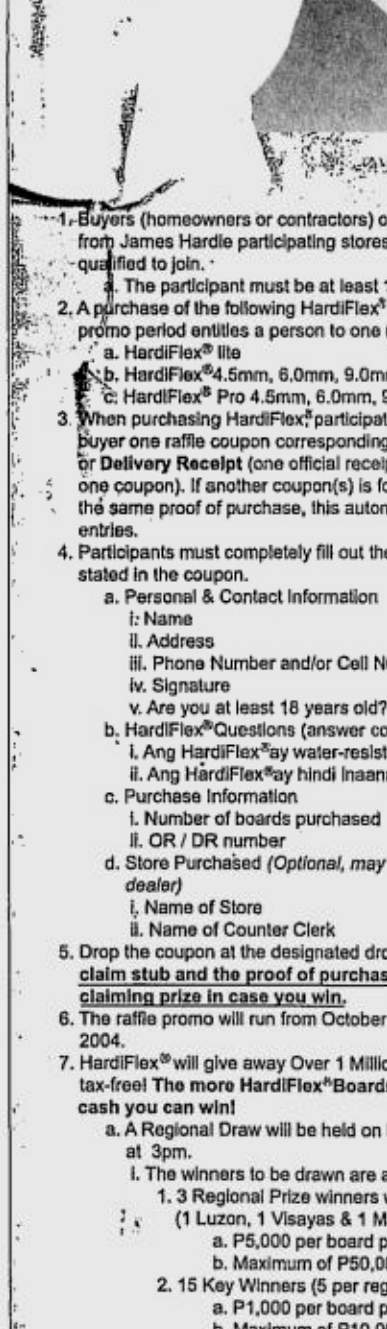
For questions, e-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

FARMAESTHETICS Deep Lavender Rub

MAD Gab's Clean Candle Clove Almond Orange

Over P 1 Million worth of prizes - tax free!

HardiFlex®
Fiber Cement Building Boards



KUWARTA KADA BOARD

Regional Draws in Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao are moved to December 1, 2003
Deadline of submission of entries: November 26, 2003
Approved by DTI-NCR

HardiFlex® Kuwarta Kada Board Promo Mechanics

1. Buyers (homeowners or contractors) of HardiFlex® products from James Hardie participating stores nationwide are qualified to join.
   a. The participant must be at least 18 years old.
2. A purchase of the following HardiFlex® products during the promo period entitles a person to one (1) raffle coupon.
   a. HardiFlex® lite
   b. HardiFlex® 4.5mm, 6.0mm, 9.0mm & 12.0 mm.
   c. HardiFlex® Pro 4.5mm, 6.0mm, 9.0mm & 12.0 mm.
3. When purchasing HardiFlex® participating dealers will give the buyer one raffle coupon corresponding to one **Official Receipt** or **Delivery Receipt** (one official receipt or delivery receipt = one coupon). If another coupon(s) is found to correspond to the same proof of purchase, this automatically voids all these entries.
4. Participants must completely fill out the information required as stated in the coupon.
   a. Personal & Contact Information
      i. Name
      ii. Address
      iii. Phone Number and/or Cell Number
      iv. Signature
      v. Are you at least 18 years old? Yes / No
   b. HardiFlex® Questions (answer correctly)
      i. Ang HardiFlex® ay water-resistant. Tama / Mali
      ii. Ang HardiFlex® ay hindi inaanay. Tama / Mali
   c. Purchase Information
      i. Number of boards purchased
      ii. OR / DR number
   d. Store Purchased *(Optional, may be filled out by the dealer)*
      i. Name of Store
      ii. Name of Counter Clerk
5. Drop the coupon at the designated drop boxes. **Keep the claim stub and the proof of purchase (very important!) in claiming prize in case you win.**
6. The raffle promo will run from October 1, 2003 to January 15, 2004.
7. HardiFlex® will give away Over 1 Million worth of Prizes – tax-free! **The more HardiFlex® Boards you buy, the more cash you can win!**
   a. A Regional Draw will be held on December 1, 2003 at 3pm.
      i. The winners to be drawn are as follows
         1. 3 Regional Prize winners will be drawn (1 Luzon, 1 Visayas & 1 Mindanao)
            a. P5,000 per board purchased
            b. Maximum of P50,000 per winner
         2. 15 Key Winners (5 per region)
            a. P1,000 per board purchased
            b. Maximum of P10,000 per winner
         3. 205 Bonus Winners (85 Luzon, 60 Visayas, 60 Mindanao)
            a. P200 Gift Certificates from Jollibee per winner (not per board)
      ii. Only coupons received by November 26, 2003 will be included in the Regional Draw. All non-winning entries will automatically qualify to the Grand Draw.
   b. The Grand Draw will be held on January 30, 2004 at 6pm.
      i. The winners to be drawn for the Grand Draw are as follows:
         1. 1 Grand Prize Winner
            a. P10,000 per board purchased
            b. Maximum of P100,000
         2. 3 Regional Prizes (1 Luzon, 1 Visayas & 1 Mindanao)
            a. P5,000 per board purchased
            b. Maximum of P50,000 per winner
         3. 35 Key Winners (15 Luzon, 10 Visayas, 10 Mindanao)
            a. P1,000 per board purchased
            b. Maximum of P10,000 per winner
         4. 300 Bonus Winners (100 per region)
            a. P200 Gift Certificates from Jollibee per winner (not per board)
      ii. Only entries received by the end of January 15, 2004 will be included in the Grand Draw. Gathered raffle entries will be under the custody of Junie Rondon, Marketing Manager, James Hardie Philippines, Inc. at James Hardie Plant, Brgy. San Isidro, Cabuyao, Laguna.
8. James Hardie Philippines, Inc. will shoulder 20% final withholding taxes on prizes amounting to more than P10,000.
9. A participant can only win once per draw. If a name is drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of greater value. The lower value prize will be raffled off.
10. The Tindera (Counter Clerk) Partner of the winning entries (except for the Bonus winners) will receive these corresponding prizes:
    a. Grand Prize
       i. P2,000 per board purchased
       ii. Maximum of P20,000
    b. Regional Prizes
       i. P500 per board purchased
       ii. Maximum of P5,000 per winner
    c. Key Winners
       i. P500 Jollibee Gift Certificates per winner
    d. In the case that the winning coupon has incomplete or no information regarding the counter clerk partner, James Hardie will not have any separate drawings just to find a winning counter clerk partner. The prize would therefore be automatically forfeited.
11. A DTI representative will be invited in the drawing of winners.
12. Prizes are non-transferable.
13. Employees of James Hardie Philippines, Inc., participating hardware stores *(except for the Counter Clerk Partner portion of the raffle)* and Gallardo and Associates including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
14. Winners will be notified through telegram and registered mail. Winners shall also be announced in a newspaper of general circulation.
15. The Grand Draw will be held at the James Hardie Plant, Brgy. San Isidro, Cabuyao, Laguna, 6:00pm in the presence of a DTI representative.
16. To claim their prizes, winners must present any original and valid identification documents (Driver's License, passport, NBI Clearance, birth certificate) the telegram or registered mail sent by James Hardie Philippines, Inc., **claim stub and proof of purchase** to James Hardie Plant, Brgy. San Isidro, Cabuyao, Laguna. **If there is a discrepancy between the information in the coupon and the proof of purchase (or any reasonable sign of tampering), the claimant must present another proof of purchase or else he/she will only be awarded the cash prize equivalent to one (1) board,** Authorized James Hardie Philippines Sales Representative will deliver prizes for provincial winners.
17. Prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from notification of James Hardie Philippines, Inc. For further inquiries, visit any of the HardiFlex® participating hardware stores nationwide or call our Customer Service toll-free numbers: 895-5427 (within Metro Manila) or 1-800-1-888-5427 (outside Metro Manila).
18. The more HardiFlex® Products you buy, the more cash you can win! Hurry! Promo runs from October 1, 2003 to January 15, 2004.

Control Measure

1. Gathered raffle entries on November 26, 2003 will be under the custody of Junie Rondon (Luzon), Marketing Manager, Joey Rebayla, (Visayas), Key Accounts Manager, and Bernie Zafra (Mindanao), Key Accounts Manager.
2. Sealed drop boxes shall be collected on January 15, 2004 and be brought to James Hardie Plant, Brgy. San Isidro, Cabuyao, Laguna under the custody of Junie Rondon, Marketing Manager. A DTI representative will be invited to be present in the opening of drop boxes and during the drawing of winners.

Bumili ng alinman sa mga sumusunod na HardiFlex® boards upang makatanggap ng isang raffle coupon.
a.) HardiFlex® lite
b.) HardiFlex® 4.5 mm., 6.0 mm., 9.0 mm. & 12.0 mm.
c.) HardiFlex® Pro 4.5 mm., 6.0 mm. 9.0 mm. & 12.0 mm.

Ipakita ang Official Receipt o Delivery Receipt ng biniling HardiFlex® para mabigyan ng raffle coupon. Ang isang (1) proof of purchase ay katumbas ng isang (1) raffle coupon.

Sagutin ang lahat ng katanungan sa raffle coupon.

Ihulog ang raffle coupon sa drop box. Itago ang Proof of Purchase at raffle stub.

The more HardiFlex® boards you buy, the more cash you can win!

Hurry! Promo runs from October 1, 2003 to January 15, 2004

In cooperation with Jollibee

James Hardie Philippines
www.jameshardie.com.ph
Per DTI NCR Permit no. 2493 Series of 2003

For further inquiries, visit any of the HardiFlex® participating hardware stores nationwide or call our customer toll-free numbers: 895-5427 within Metro Manila or 1-800-1-888-5427 outside Metro Manila.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Now Open Super SM Hypermarket Marilao

Super SM Hypermarket brings super choices, super prices and a super shopping experience with the opening of its branch in Marilao.

Super SM is a take-off from the European hypermarket concept which combines supermarket, general merchandise and discount retailing.

Super SM provides one-stop shopping convenience by combining a carefully selected range of food and general merchandise items. The spacious hypermarket in Marilao is designed to save customers time and money, and at the same time enhance the total shopping experience.

The store features over a dozen general merchandise departments including women's, men's, children's and infant's wear and accessories; a full line of shoes; houseware and furniture; appliance; games, magazines and hardware items.

The hypermarket's much talked-about food area includes the freshest picks at the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable section; the choicest cuts at the Meat and Poultry section; and a wide range of dairy and deli as well as grocery items.

And what could be better than fresh? Available daily at the Seafood section are fresh catch such as live *Lapu-Lapu, tilapia,* catfish *(hito),* mudfish *(dalag),* lobster as well as shellfish.

The Bakery section is also popular with shoppers. Available fresh from the oven are locally-baked goodies such as hot *pandesal, ensaymada,* Spanish bread, muffins, sugar-raised donuts as well as Italian breads like *foccacia, ciabatta* and even super slices of pizza!

Not to be missed is the Rotisserie section which offers ready-to-go food items such as succulent whole roasted chicken and roasted liempo.

Another customer favorite is the Sushi Bar which offers fresh hand-rolled *sushi, onigiri, maki* and even piping hot miso soup!

Sushi is even sold by piece so that customers can create their own combination of Japanese food items.

Apart from a super shopping experience, Super SM also offers great promos. Bringing a lot of excitement to shoppers is the **Shop 'n' Win** raffle promo where shoppers with a P500 minimum purchase will get the chance to win P10,000 worth of gift cheques daily.

There's also P150,000 in cash at stake monthly plus over P1,000,000 in cash in the grand draw.

What's more, shoppers with a P1,000 minimum purchase will get a chance to play the pachinco and win instant prizes in the **Shop & Win Plus.**

With savings of up to 80%, the **Value Packs** have gained such demand among customers that lines practically form just to avail of these items. A Value Pack consists of two featured items plus a free SM Bonus item.

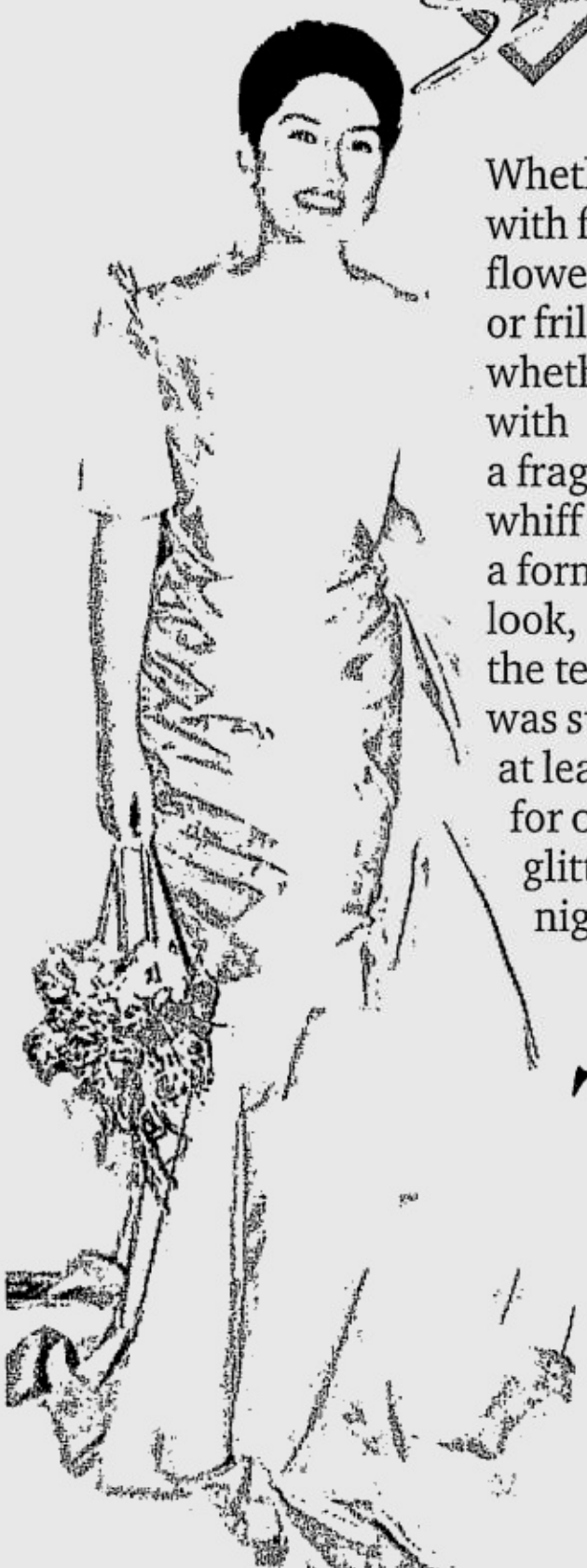
Not only super savings and discounts are in store for Super SM shoppers but great fun as well.

Shoppers can purchase prepaid phone and internet cards, pay utility bills and purchase show tickets at the Customer Service counter.

They can also have their gifts wrapped, avail of mailing, photocopying as well as film developing services. What's more, customers can even have prescription glasses made at the hypermarket.

Super SM Hypermarket Marilao is located at the Ground Level, SM City Marilao, McArthur Highway, Lias Road, Marilao, Bulacan. Store hours are from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

ADVT



IRENE Marcos-Araneta in a Pepito Albert

Whether with flounce, flower or frill, whether with a fragile whiff or a formidable look, the terno was supreme at least for one glittering night

BEA Zobel Jr. in Joe Salazar with Joel Uichico

LULI Arroyo and Ben Chan in Joe Salazar

KITKAT Zobel in Inno Sotto

Timeless and unforgettable

Text by Chelo Banal-Formoso
Photos by Alex Van Hagen and Jim Guiao Punzalan

FOR THE first time in my life—and this might have been true of many other women who attended the Metropolitan Museum of Manila's Timeless Terno ball—I wore a terno.

The invitation had specified the attire for the evening: barong Tagalog for the men and terno or Filipina dress for the women. All these years that I've been working as a journalist I could never be bothered to conform to the required attire for any event, my excuse being I wasn't there to enjoy myself but to work.

The Timeless Terno affair, however, was special on two counts.

First, it was a tribute to Joe Salazar, a designer whom I respect, a friend whom I miss and a beautiful person the likes of whom I wish there were more of on this planet. Everyone in the social loop knows about Joe's poor health. This explains the flurry of activities his friends and colleagues have been putting up to honor and humor him. And so I thought, for Joe, I'd wear a terno if it maimed me.

Second, I had attended the media launching of the Timeless Terno project and dined with its co-chairs, Bea Zobel Jr. and Luli Arroyo, Met museum director Ino Manalo, Bench/Pinoy Lab's Ben Chan and Miguel Pastor and a few others involved. Big mistake, I tell you.

You cannot sit down with Ms Zobel's team and not be amazed by how they are moved, despite widespread indifference, to do something so foolishly heroic as to care about art and its development in this country. Having heard their passionate plea for reviving the terno, how could I not wear one?

And so I showed up at the Met Museum in my black empire-cut terno by Frederick Peralta. I could have gone to any designer in this town for my terno, but I chose Frederick to

TIMELESS/ L3

Benjarong

Thai Yuletide Treats
December 24 and 25, 2003 for Set Menu Php850.00++
December 31, 2003 for Set Menu Php950.00++
with complimentary glass of sparkling wine.

Nabe Kaiseki (Japanese Hot Pot Fair)
For the whole month of December from Php750.00++ to Php950.00++ only per order.

Toshi Koshi Soba Noodles
New Year's Eve specials of noodles for good health, long life and happiness in the coming year. From Php280.00++ to Php340.00++

Osechi Ryori
January 1 to 3, 2004 Set Menu for lunch and dinner at Php1,400.00++ per set.

THIEN DUONG

Vietnamese Yuletide Feast
December 24, 25 and 31, 2003 to January 1, 2004
Set Menu from Php500.00++ to Php700.00++
with complimentary glass of sparkling wine.

Fiesta

Christmas and New Year Dinner Fiesta Specials
Restaurant offering on December 24, 25 and 31, 2003; January 1, 2004. Family Style Set Menus for four persons at Php3,000.00++ and eight persons at Php5,500.00++
Featuring all-time Filipino favorites with complimentary mug of beer. At the bar, on going up to December 15: 0' Beer Flowing at Php270.00++ from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.; 50% off on selected drinks 9:00 p.m onwards.

New Year's Eve Countdown party with top bands. Minimum charge of Php350.00++ consumable.

CAFE

Christmas and New Year Buffet Dinner Specials
December 24, 25 and 31, 2003; January 1, 2004 Php750.00++
with complimentary glass of sparkling wine for a sumptuous international Christmas spread.

LOBBY LOUNGE

Puto Bumbong and Bibingka
November 27, 2003 to January 4, 2004 Christmas is never complete for Filipinos without these delicacies. Only Php170.00++ for Puto Bumbong and Php200.00++ for Bibingka. With your choice of coffee, tea or salabat.

Deli Shop

Christmas Goodies
Spread holiday cheers and give presents such as logs, candy houses and others from our deli. 50% off on specialty cakes and pastries from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

FREE ACCESS to the Fiesta San Miguel New Year's Eve countdown party for diners with a minimum receipt of Php750.00 from Benjarong, Benkay, Thien Duong and The Cafe restaurants on December 31, 2003.

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MANILA • PHILIPPINES

Our Christmas bundles of Joy for you.

We have made it a tradition to have children as the center of our Christmases. For the fourth year our lobby is once again filled with their voices. This year, we will have at least 1,500 of them from some 29 schools, starting November 28, 6:00 p.m. Performances by these Children's Choirs till December 23, 2003.

HOLIDAY COUNTDOWN ROOM PACKAGE for three-day stays starts December 15, 2003 to January 15, 2003 with an amazing Php1,000.00 discount on second and third days from Php3,600.00 net to Php2,600.00 net to Php1,600.00 net!!! On all these three days, families of four* will enjoy a *deluxe room*, complimentary buffet breakfast for two at The Cafe Restaurant, Christmas treats for the kids, free access to fitness center facilities and swimming pool, plus access to the New Year's Eve Countdown Party at Fiesta San Miguel.

*Two adults, two kids 12 years old and below or (adults at Php1,000.00 each). Valid for local residents and expatriate with ACRs

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RANDY Ortiz

PAUL Cabral

THE GRAND finale presented Joe Salazar's terno masterpieces.

LEN Nepomuceno-Guiao

TIPPI Ocampo

Pomp and pride in butterfly sleeves

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan and Alex Van Hagen

HOW does one reinvent a lovely but virtually neglected national costume and make it stylish enough for today's Filipino women, most of whom have grown up in ready-to-wear clothes?

As part of the "Timeless Terno" project co-chaired by Presidential daughter Luli Arroyo and Bea Zobel Jr., the recent "Tribute to Joe Salazar" fashion show at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila showcased the works of JC Buendia, Paul Cabral, Dong Omaga-Diaz, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Rhett Eala, Arcy Gayatin, Len Nepomuceno-Guiao, Jojie Lloren, Dennis Lustico, Tippi Ocampo, Randy Ortiz and Rajo Laurel.

The affair was a tribute to Salazar, who, like the late Ramon Valera, has done a great deal to popularize the terno. Salazar was unable to attend the event, but his nephew and niece came on his behalf.

Alas, over the decades, the terno's popularity has waned. As a knee-jerk reaction perhaps to the excesses of the Marcos regime, women have seemed reluctant to wear the terno after the Edsa Revolution.

Zobel, who considers art not only as a source of identity but also of national pride, unity and livelihood, begged to disagree. In so many words, she encouraged the women in the audience to wear their patriotism on their butterfly sleeves.

"Tonight we showcase a form of art—the terno, one of our most famous national costumes," she said to a roomful of guests in their Filipiniana best. "[From what I see] we have been successful in getting a terno into your closets at last! Do not allow your ternos to collect spider webs. Wear it with pride during all occasions. Ternos are just one example of our dying art forms which we want to revive."

The gowns done by the group of designers handpicked by Salazar for the tribute were as much inspired by the terno master as affirmations of their respective styles and preferences.

"We managed to learn, among other things, the art of how to make the sleeves stand and to anchor them properly," said an amused Ramos-Diaz, whose young clients don't usually go for ternos.

Thus, one of Ramos-Diaz's gowns expectedly looked young and whimsical, thanks to such elements as pleats above the waist, a polka-dotted sash and a hidden bustle under a long skirt with a thigh-high slit. Lime-green accents on the chest and waist livened up otherwise drab colors such as gray.

Her empire-cut magenta terno, with only a spread of tulle adorned with a pair of brooches at the back, was inspired by Salazar's penchant to use fabrics as a sculpting medium.

POMP/ J4

RHETT Eala

RAJO Laurel

DONG Omaga-Diaz

ARCY Gayatin

JC Buendia

DENNIS Lustico

PATRICE Ramos-Diaz

ROLANDO Lotho

GARIMON Roferos

DENNIS Martin

FIRST-PRIZE winning terno by Joel Escobar

ALEJANDRO Godinez

ROMEO Parcon

AVEL Bacudio

NORMAN Noriega

CHRISTINE Daniac

STEPHANIE Santos

ELLI Pinto, Menchu Menchaca-Soriano in Patis Tesoro, Cesar Gaupo and Lulu Tan Gan

LITO and Kim Camacho with Warner and Julie Manning

MARIVIC Vasquez in Ben Farrales

INNO Sotto with some of the divas in his terno: Marilen Elizalde, Sofia Zobel, Nina Garcia, Margarita Fores, Pamen Elizalde, Sam Eduque, Christine Garcia, Mandy de la Rama Santos, Sevrine Mimialhe, Sigalit Djemal

Timeless and unforgettable

From page L1

make a point that I hope would nqt be lost on Jules Ledesma.

Despite my protestations about how tough bathroom breaks are when you're in a terno, I do want to get used to wearing the terno because it is a beautiful and elegant part of our heritage. I swear one day I'll able to wear a terno with affectless aplomb, and I won't be alone. From what I saw at the Met event, women enjoyed being seen in their butterfly sleeves.

Feast of ternos

That was one fashion show where what the glamour queens in the audience wore outshone the clothes on the ramp. One reason was that most of the guests were wonderfully vibrant and prosperous women who came all decked up in ternos by the likes of Pitoy Moreno, Ben Farrales, Inno Sotto, Pepito Albert, Patis Tesoro, Jeanie Goulbourn, and other established names.

Joe Salazar, although ailing and in and out of the hospital, managed to design the ternos of Imelda Cojuangco, Bea Zobel Jr. and Luli Arroyo, among others.

Inno Sotto, who has always been more inclined to create something dramatic rather than traditionally romantic, made 21 ternos for the event.

There were ternos with flounces, flowers and frills of all kinds. There were ternos that teased with a peek of the chest and ternos that provoked with a lot of upper body exposure. There were ternos that either dipped ever so slightly or plunged all the way to the waist in the back. There were ternos that looked fragile and ephemeral, ternos that conveyed power and ternos that spelled abandon. The evening was a feast of ternos that could cause the most brooding Crisostomo Ibarra to swoon.

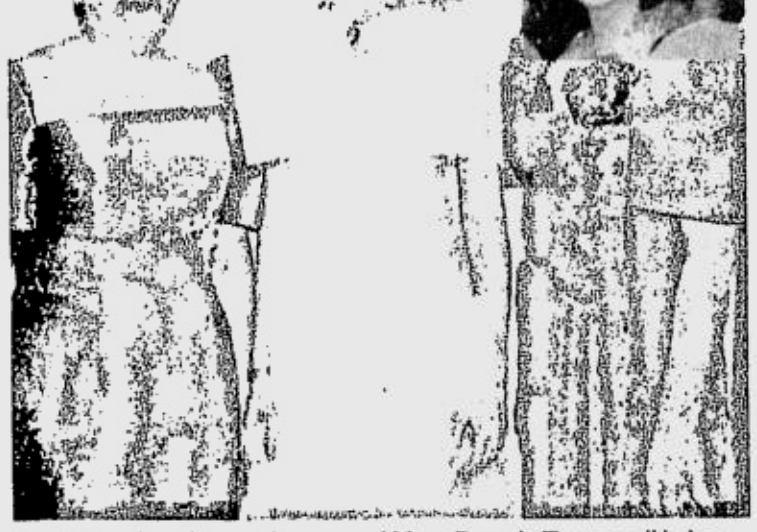
All in all, it was an evening of the excitingly new ternos versus the enduringly traditional.

And now, some shameless plugging: The Metropolitan Museum needs money to keep its exhibits, community partnership projects and educational programs going. It gets free rent from the Bangko Sentral, but it is in dire need of funds. The Timeless Terno Project was one way to pry some loose change from friends of the arts, but the museum needs much more.

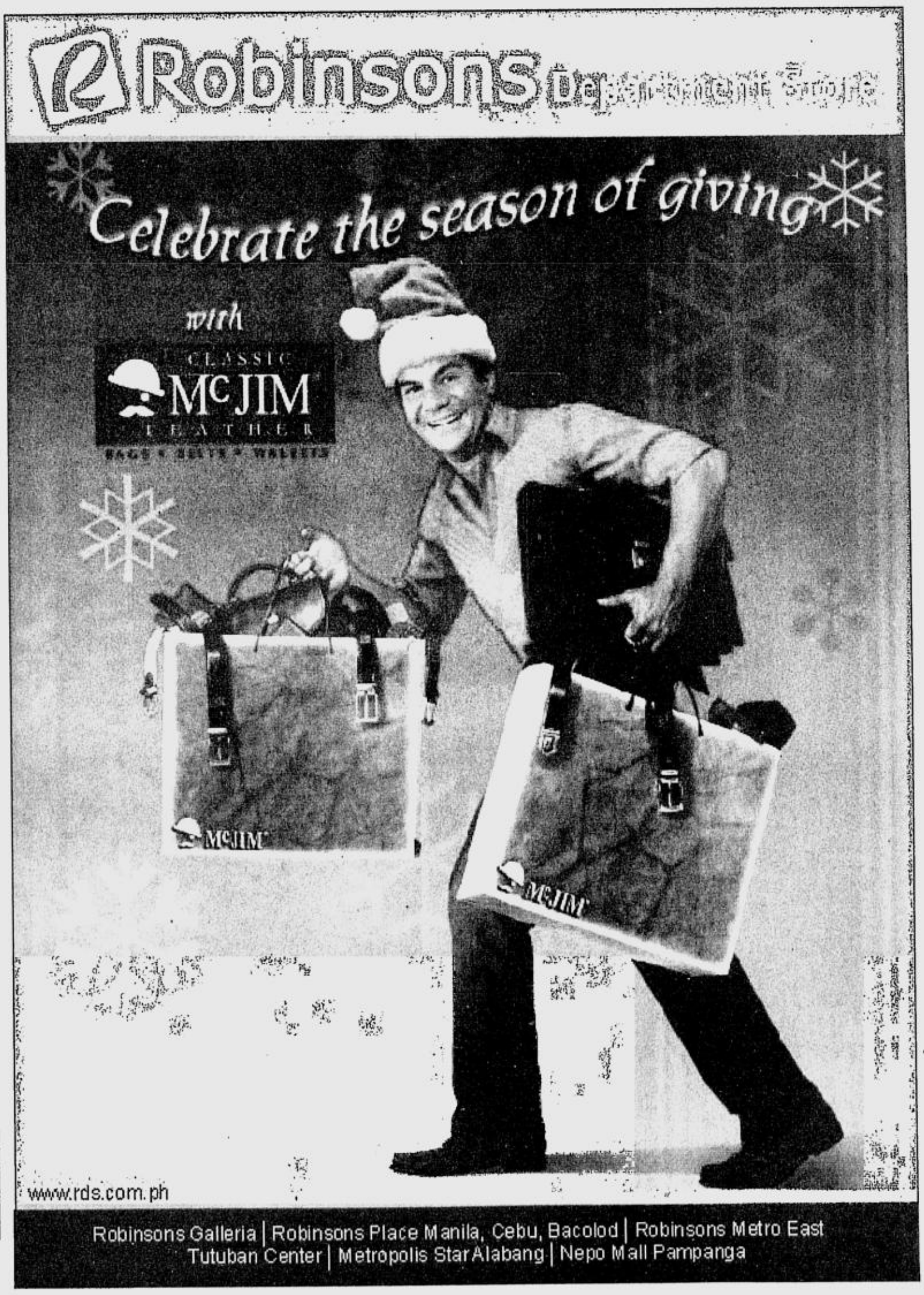
Getting funding, said Ms Zobel, had been like climbing a steep mountain in your high heels. If you or your corporation can help, call the Met Museum at 5237855 and 5211517 or e-mail art4all@info.com.ph.

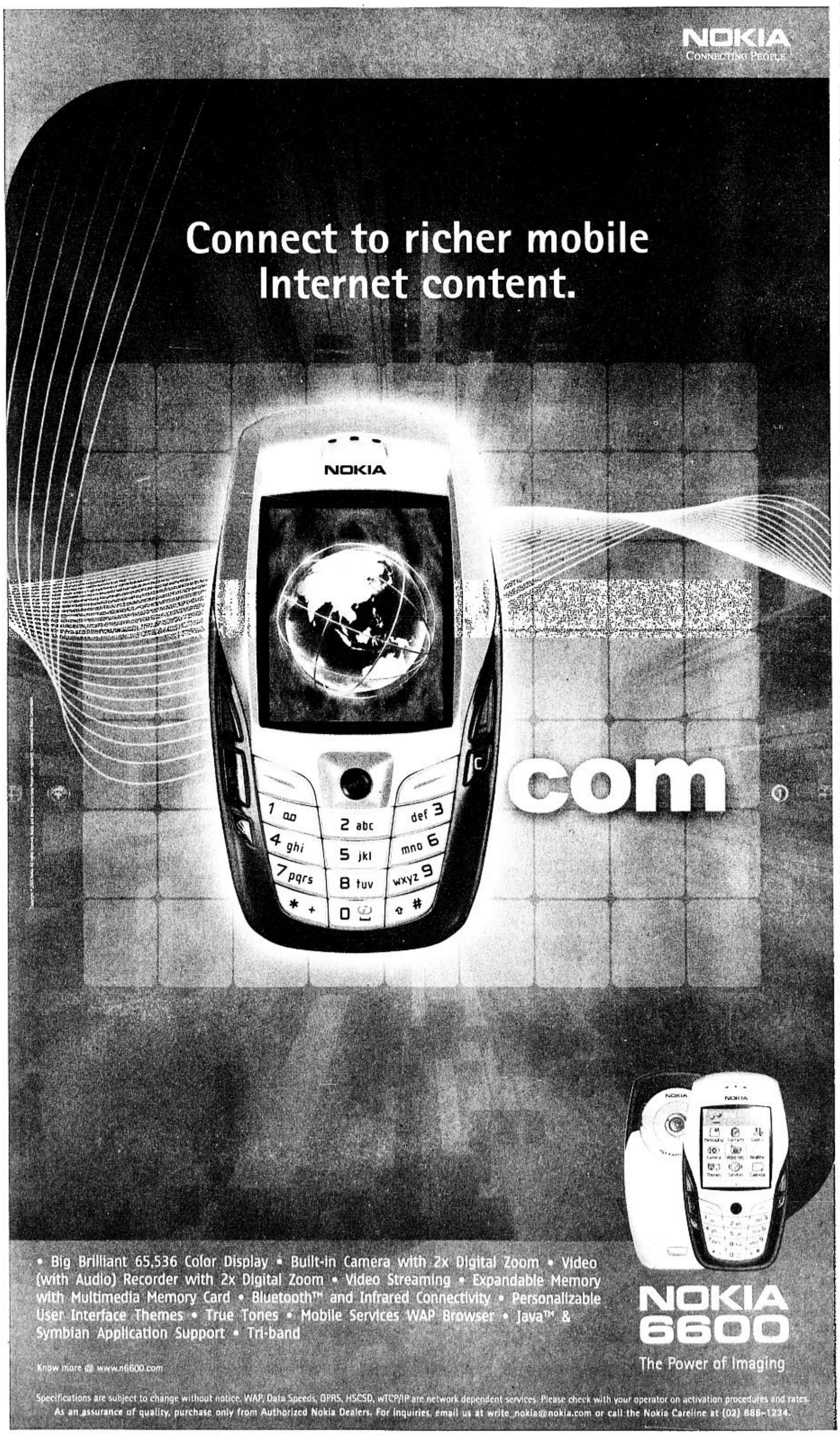
CHING Montinola, Menchu Concepcion, Imelda Cojuangco in Joe Salazar, Mercy Tuason and Bea Zobel Sr. in Inno Sotto

MARIXI Prieto in Pitoy Moreno



NENE Lim, Lucy Torres Gomez and Mons Romulo Tantoco all in Joe Salazar





Pomp and pride in butterfly sleeves

From page L2

Ocampo also did two ternos aimed at the young: one made of faux leather in black and lilac and the other a strapless green cocktail dress under a sheer *piña* terno that was cinched at the waist with an embroidered cummerbund.

Trademarks

Even a "Presidential" designer such as Cabral, who did several Western-style and Filipiniana-inspired gowns for former First Lady Loi Ejercito, had never done a terno before. But this time, he came up with what may be two of the evening's most painstakingly crafted and Salazaresque pieces.

Cabral's two black ternos, made primarily of duchess satin, incorporated embellishments that have become trademark Salazar: pink bows, intricate embroidery, ostrich feathers, yards upon yards of Swiss lace, layers of knife-pleated organza and horsehair galore.

Exciting

As usual, Lloren didn't disappoint with his clean, exquisitely tailored black gowns made of silk that had several striking elements.

One of his works had neon-colored swirls that went every which way on a black background. What looked like an otherwise simple gown actually involved lots of work as Lloren did away with the *de rigueur* tucks and cuts. The other piece was a fusion of Filipino and Japanese elements, with a cascading train attached to an obi sash that was tied around the model's waist.

Lustico, on the other hand, capitalized on his strength in draping. His chocolate brown creations, one of which resembled a cross between the terno and the chador, easily stood out from the rest.

The other gown had a pair of butterfly sleeves that were obscured by dolman-like sleeves that extended all the way to the skirt—or were they a pair of pants? Interesting, indeed, but definitely not for the shy and the vertically challenged woman.

One of Ortiz's pieces, a dyed aqua *piña*, was a micro mini bubble dress inspired by the 1960s. He described it as a "playful and young" option for today's women. Just like his saffron number, Ortiz's bubble dress came with an electric-pleated extension in royal blue. Both came with butterfly sleeves.

Romantic

Buendia's princess-cut white gowns made of silk were pictures of simplicity. One was inspired by Salazar's dots series, while the other had a series of black strips and a Swarovski-encrusted black bow on one side of the waist. The designer's strength in tailoring was quite evident.

Laurel, meanwhile, was in a romantic mood as he livened up a pair of black duchess satin gowns with off-white crocheted appliqués on the sleeves and certain areas of the chest and bodice.

To heighten the glam factor, Laurel sprinkled the appliqué with hints of glitter. Before making their exit, his two models removed the detachable butterfly sleeves.

Grand prize

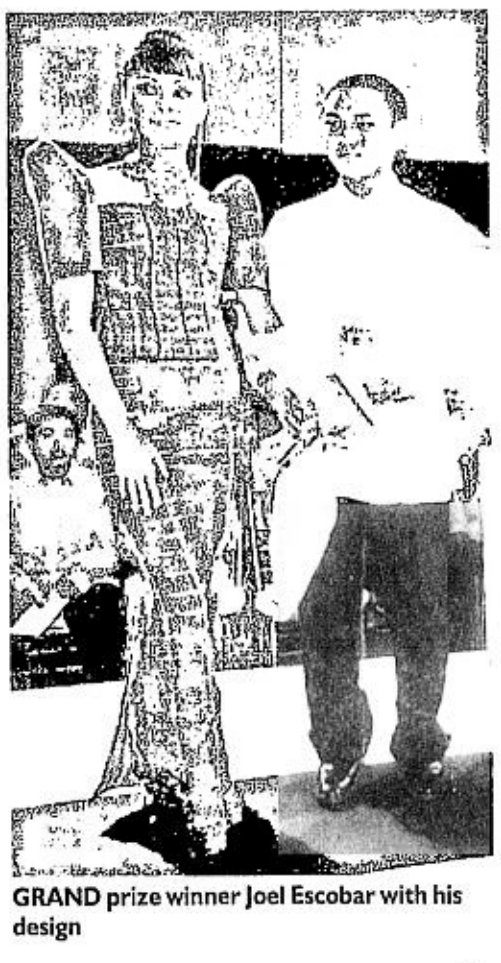
Since the "Timeless Terno" project had a contest component for new fashion practitioners, the 10 finalists who had been picked from over 100 entries from all over the country were presented that same evening.

Joel Escobar won the grand prize. He edged out Avel Bacudio, Christina Damiac, Alejandro Godinez, Rolando Lotho, Dennis Martin, Norman Noriega, Garimon Roferos, Romeo Parcon and Stephanie Santos.

Despite his use of unusual materials like denim strips embellished with rivets, topstitching and D rings, Escobar's entry was wearable and followed the traditional contours of the terno—from the well-proportioned butterfly sleeves to the skirt's fishtail silhouette.

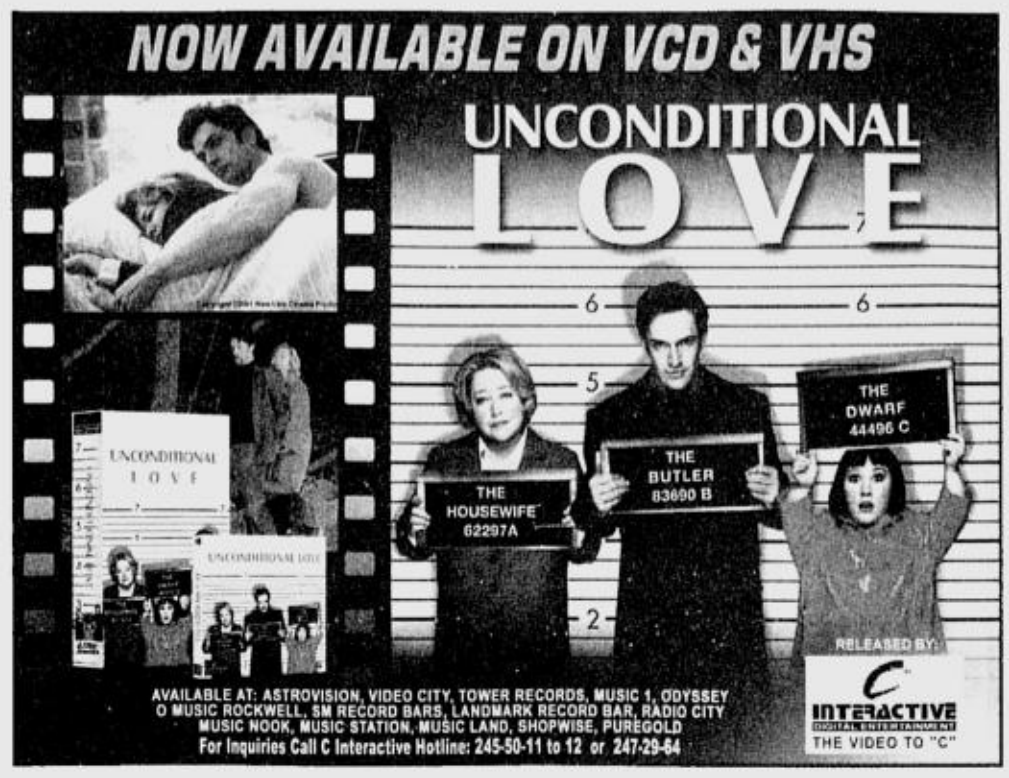
The 10 finalist designs will be on display at the Metropolitan Museum beginning Dec. 10.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



GRAND prize winner Joel Escobar with his design

MANILA Pavilion Hotel, represented by executive assistant manager Bernardo Corpus Jr., is awarded a token of appreciation by Department of Tourism Undersecretary Rolando Reyes (left) and Surigao Gov. Lyndon Barbers (right) for featuring Caraga Region XIII in one of the hotel's food festivals.



How to make decorative balloons

A WORKSHOP on "How to Make Decorative Balloons the Easy Way" will be held on Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Training Hall of F. Benitez Alumni Center, Ylanan Street corner Magsaysay Avenue, UP Campus, Diliman, QC. Call 7041763, 3386304.

GOINGS ON

REUNION. All graduates and former students of the Immaculate Conception Minor Seminary of the Diocese of Malolos, Bulacan are invited on Nov. 30 for the 15th annual homecoming at ICMS, Bgy. Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan. The reunion starts at 1:30 p.m. There will be a Mass at 6 p.m. and night prayers at 8 p.m. This year's jubilarians are Batch '78, headed by Fr. Ver Cruz (0916-9534519). Call ICMS at (044)7940040.

SALE. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall will hold a holiday weekend sale on Dec. 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 and 26-28. Exchange your P500 single purchase receipt for a raffle coupon in "Win Your Dreams" promo. The grand draw will be held on Jan. 10, 2004.

PROMO. John Robert Powers is giving away 10 sessions free with enrollment in any level of personality development workshops. The buy one/take one free promo can give savings up to P30,000. Deadline for enrollment is on Dec. 15. Call 8929511.

SONGFEST. The Metropop finals will be held on Nov. 29 at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, QC and will be telecast live on GMA 7 starting at 9:30 p.m.

SALE. Abenson and Equitable Cards' 0 percent deals on all appliances is ongoing in all Abenson stores. Buy any Abenson appliances until Dec. 14 to avail of 0 percent interest installment up to 12 months. Equitable cardholders can buy their appliances during the holiday season and pay in January 2004.

CONTEST. DMC is holding a nationwide cross-stitch competition which is open to Grades 4 and 5 and high school students. School level competition will end in February 2004. Call 6348587.

CONCERT. Joey Ayala and Noel Cabangon join the Pawikan Festival for a free concert on Nov. 29 in Morong Beach, Bataan.

SALE. Bobson has an ongoing sale in all its outlets until Nov. 30. Shoppers can avail of a 10 percent discount on all regular items and get special gifts with purchases made during the sale.

WORKSHOP. The Ontario Center for Skills and Livelihood will hold a workshop on "How to Learn Reflexology and Aromatherapy the Easy Way" on Nov. 30 and Dec. 6, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. It will be held at the 2/F Bahay Nakpil, 432 A. Bautista St., Quiapo, Manila. Call 7041763, 3386304.

PROMO. All BPI, BPI Family Bank Express Teller cardholders and BPI Direct ATM cardholders who use the Express Teller System from Oct. 10 to Jan. 18, 2004 can join the Express Teller EPS Smart Shopper Holiday Cash Giveaway promo. A minimum purchase of P1,000 in single EPS transaction receipt qualifies a cardholder to one computer-generated raffle number. The grand draw will be on Jan. 21, 2004.

CONCERT. Capitol University, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Philippine Madrigal Singers present Mindanaoan choral groups in a concert for peace dubbed "Singing Mindanao Madz et. al" on Dec. 2 and 3, 6:30 p.m., at the Capitol University gymnatorium, Cagayan de Oro City.

PROMO. MasterCard credit cardholders will have the chance to win as much as P600,000 in the promo "The 12 Weeks of Christmas with MasterCard and SM Supermalls." Customers have to use their MasterCard credit card and spend at least P1,000 in a single receipt at any SM department store. Only sales receipts dated Oct. 10 to Jan. 4, 2004 are valid for entry in the promo. The deadline for enrollment for each monthly draw is Nov. 30 and Jan. 4, 2004.

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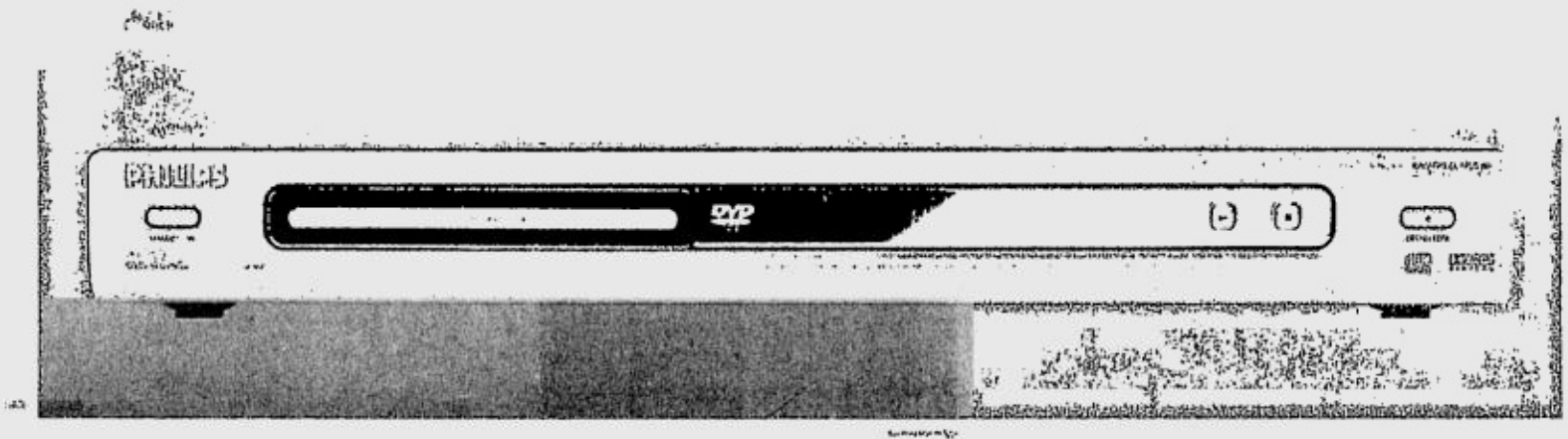

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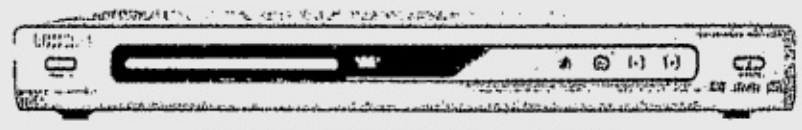

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special PROJECT
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2003

The DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY and the PHILIPPINE RETAILERS ASSOCIATION

2003 Outstanding Filipino Retailers feted

IT WAS a night of glitz and glamour as the Philippine Retailers Association and the Department of Trade and Industry paid tribute to seven of the country's biggest and brightest names in retailing as they romped off with the industry's most coveted 2003 Outstanding Filipino Retailers (OFR) of the Year and Shopping Center of the Year Awards during an Oscar Awards-inspired evening staged recently at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

A joint undertaking of the PRA, the national organization of retailers in the country, and DTI, the award seeks to recognize top outstanding retailers who have epitomized the model of excellence in retailing in terms of success and good ethical practices. DTI Assistant Secretary Norman Hocson represented DTI Secretary Mar Roxas during the awards.

Islands Souvenirs won the Outstanding Filipino Retailer award for the Small Scale-Fashion Category for the second consecutive year, thus earning its rightful place in the Hall of Fame. Islands Souvenirs has over a hundred branches all over the country and has successfully expanded its network in the US, Japan and Singapore. Finalists in this category were Artwork, Fino and Silverworks.

PCX, last year's PRA Most Promising Retailer and another multi-awarded retailer bagged the award for the Medium Scale-Non Fashion category. Other finalists in this category were Bratpack and Sportshouse.

Celine, the 1999 winner in the same category of the OFR Awards and another multi-awarded retailer with over 25 years experience in the shoe industry, won in the Medium Scale-Fashion category. Companies that competed in this category were Bayo and Freeway.

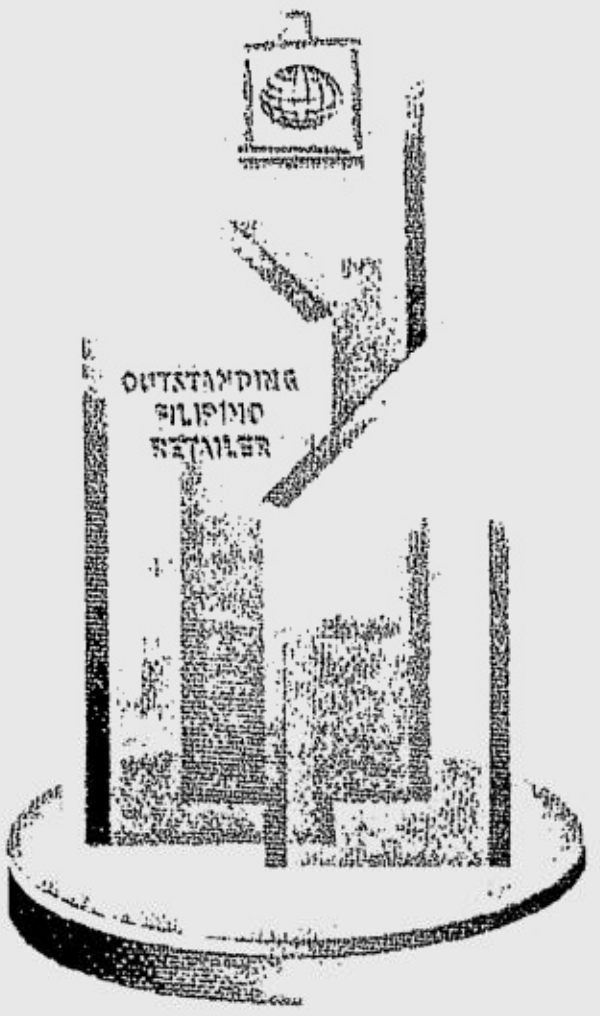
Handyman, the fastest growing local hardware and home improvement chain in the country, bagged the Category Specialist award.

The PRA and DTI also named Beauty Bar and Papyvore as the Most Promising Retailers of the Year for the Fashion and Non Fashion category, respectively Beauty Bar of the Stores Specialist Group, won the award for its distinctive concept and exciting brands and products not available anywhere else in the country. Papyvore, barely three years in the business, has captured the reading public's eye with its wide range of magazines and publications that cater to the varied interests of the reading public.

Shangri-La Plaza bagged the Shopping Center of the Year for its innovative marketing and promotions that has created a distinctive shopping ambience thereby strengthening its position as a premier shopping center.

The three hour affair was a gathering of the biggest names in business and industry like SM Shoemart president Tessie Sy Coson, Robinsons Dept. Store president Robina Gokongwei-Pe, Big R Supercenter EVP/COO Fredering Go, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Serge Ortiz Luis, Shangri-La Plaza general manager Lala Fojas, Alabang TownCenter general manager Javier Hernandez, Araneta Center president Teddy Asuncion, French Baker Johnlu Koa, Blims president Carrie Lim, Rustans Vida T. Estrella, Beauty Bar EVP Anton Huang, Philippine Daily Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, PDI Corp. manager Celine Madamba, GMA 7's Jimmy Alanis, Philippine Amalgamated Groceries and Supermarkets Association (Pagasa) president Steven Cua, IBM Philippines marketing manager Mylene Castillo, among others.

The 2003 Outstanding Filipino Retailers Awards is sponsored by Philippine Daily Inquirer, Ayala Center, SM Shoemart, Shangri-La Plaza, Celine, Filipinas Alfa Freeway, HBC, Islands Souvenirs and Rusty Lopez, Kameraworld and Designer Blooms.



Outstanding Filipino Retailers in 2003

"RECOGNIZING the country's retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices."

The Philippine Retailers Association and the Department of Trade and Industry launched the Search for Outstanding Filipino Retailers 2003. The award, now on its 7th year, seeks to encourage Filipino retailers to adopt world class standards and practices and be globally competitive. The award will recognize the Filipino Retailers who have epitomized the model of a successful retailer in terms of growth and good ethical practices.

Minimum qualifications

This contest is open to all Filipino homegrown retailers (excluding convenience stores, service establishments, food establishments, groceries and supermarkets)

The company must have been in operation for a minimum of 5 years except for Most Promising Retailer, which must have been in operation for a minimum of two years.

The company must be registered with the DTI/SEC and BIR.

Categories:

Full line department store
Category specialist (fashion and non-fashion)
Medium Store
Small store
Most Promising Retailer
Mall of the Year

Criteria for Judging

Marketing is 40 percent, Operations is 20 percent, Sales is 20 percent, Environment is 10 percent and Reputation is 10 percent for a total of 100 percent.

Nomination process

Any organization, company or individual may nominate a retailer for the search. Nomination forms are available at the PRA or DTI office nearest you.

Submission of BID book

Each nominee will be requested to submit a Bid Book that contains the following documents to qualify for the screening process.

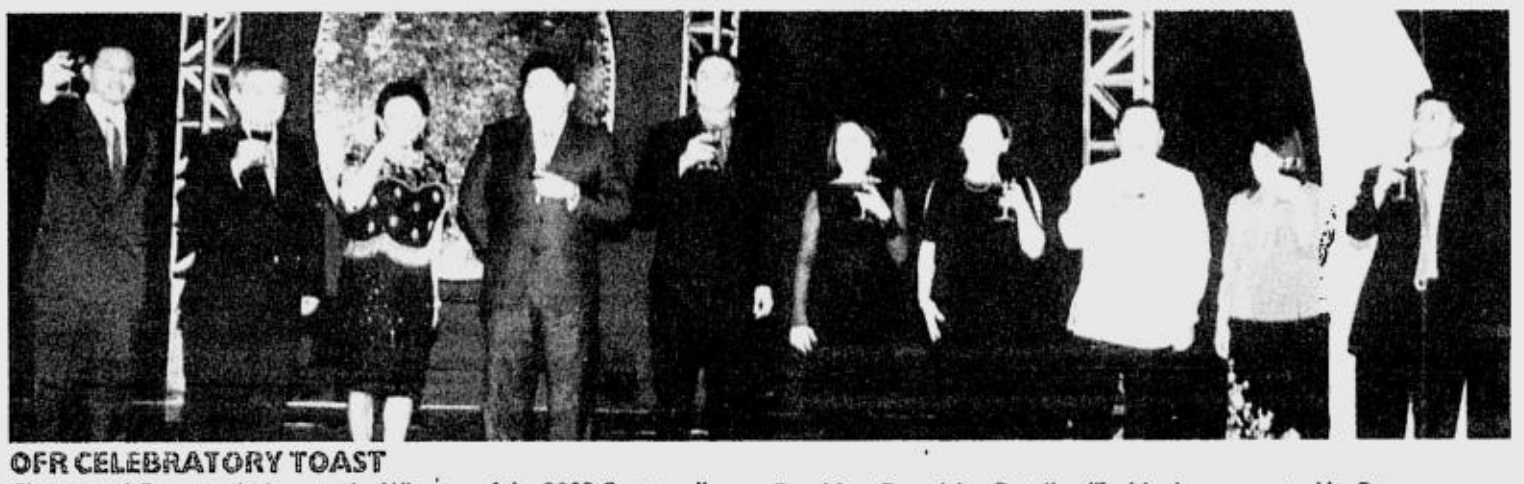
Company profile (include list of key cities)
Copy of registration papers with DTI/SEC and BIR
Latest Audited Financial Statement
Duly accomplished Application Form
Tape, brochure, catalogue, etc. and other materials that will support your application

All forms and pertinent documents may be submitted to PRA or any DTI regional office. Only duly accomplished application forms will complete supporting documents will be considered.

For more information please contact:

Philippine Retailers Association
Unit 2610 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., and Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No.: 687-4180, 687-4181 and 687-4985
Fax: 636-0825
Email: pra@nwave.net
Look for Ms. Evelyn Balmeo Salire, Sec. General

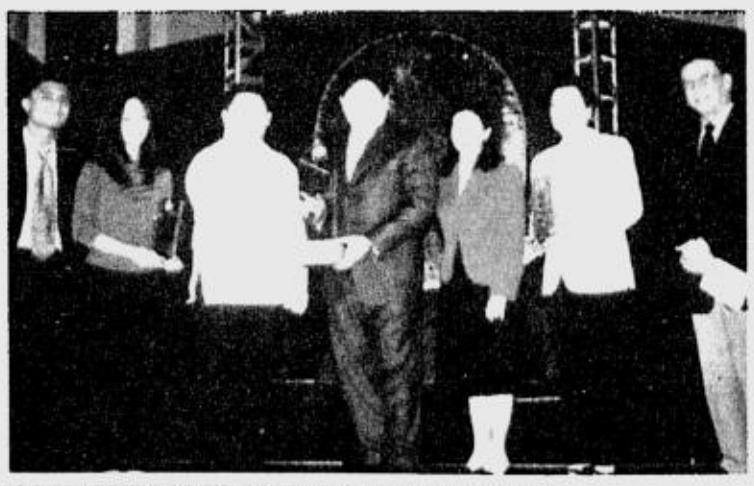
Department of Trade and Industry
Second Floor, Trade and Industry Building
361 Sen. Gin Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel.: 890-4855 or 890-4933
Fax: 759-2069
Email: bdtp@dti.gov.ph
Look for Mr. Merynado Orbeta, Director



OFR CELEBRATORY TOAST
Cheers and Congratulations to the Winners of the 2003 Outstanding Filipino Retailers (OFR) Awards of the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) & Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) held recently at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. Photo shows (from left) DTI Assistant Secretary Norman Hocson; Islands Souvenirs, Hall of Fame, Small Scale Category (Fashion) represented by VP-Marketing, Lyndon G. Angan; PRA chairman emeritus Samie Lim; Shangri-La Plaza Corp., Best Shopping Center of the Year represented by EVP/general manager, Danila Regina Fojas; Beauty Bar, Most Promising Retailer (Fashion) represented by Stores Specialists, Inc. EVP, Anton Huang; Handyman, Category Specialist (Non-Fashion), represented by president, Willy Co; PCX, Medium Scale Category (Non-Fashion) represented by general manager, Eileen de Guzman; Papyvore, Most Promising Retailer (Non-Fashion) represented by proprietress, Janice Margot Ang Koa; Celine Marketing Corp., Medium Scale Category (Fashion) represented by chair & CEO, Chan Kok Bin; PRA Vice chair Ma. Alegria S. Limjoco and PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III.

2003 OFR MOST PROMISING RETAILER
The Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) recently honored this year's Most Promising Retailer (Non-Fashion) award to Papyvore, represented by Ms. Janice Margot Ang Koa (center). With her (from left) PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, DTI Asec. Norman Hocson, Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) corporate relations officer Celine Madamba and Hubilla Design Group president Johnny Hubilla. Papyvore, which now has 10 branches, carries a variety of local & foreign magazines and publications of varied interests.

2003 OFR CATEGORY SPECIALIST WINNER
The Philippine Retailer Association (PRA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) recently awarded Handyman, represented by general manager Jody Gadia and president Willy Co (center) the Category Specialist award during the Outstanding Filipino Retailers (OFR) Awards Night in Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Photo also shows PRA chair Emeritus Samie Lim (left), Robina Gokongwei-Pe (fourth from right), and PRA vice chair Ma. Alegria Limjoco (right).



2003 OFR MOST PROMISING RETAILER
Beauty Bar represented by Store Specialists EVP Anton Huang (4th from the left) was awarded the 2003 Most Promising Retailer (Fashion) by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) & the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) at the recently concluded 2003 Outstanding Filipino Retailer (OFR) Awards Night in Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Photo shows (from left) PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, finalist InStyle represented by asst. manager - marketing Evita Ventura, DTI Asec. Norman Hocson, Philippine Daily Inquirer (PDI) president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, finalist Essenses represented by Rustans director of operations Vida T. Estrella and SM SVP - store operations Jorge T. Mendiola. Beauty Bar serves its discriminating clientele through seven free-standing stores located in premiere shopping complexes in Metro Manila spreading to a wider customer base.

2003 OFR HALL OF FAME
The Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) recently awarded Islands Souvenirs, represented by vice president on marketing Lydon Angan (sixth from left) the Small Scale Category (Fashion) and Hall of Fame award at the recently concluded 2003 Outstanding Filipino Retailers (OFR) Awards Night at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. From left, PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, Picture City president lawyer Paul A. Santos, finalists Silverworks represented by managing director Luisito Gutierrez, Fino represented by vice president for marketing Rose Ann Marie Bautista and Artwork Inc. represented by vice president Ma. Medin V. Vellamiel with DTI Under Secretary Norman Hocson and PRA vice president Vida T. Estrella. Islands Souvenirs won the OFR award for Small Scale Category for the second consecutive year, thus earning its rightful place in the Hall of Fame. It has also more than a hundred branches all over the country and has successfully expanded its network in the US, Japan and Singapore.

2003 OUTSTANDING FILIPINO RETAILERS WINNERS

Category Specialist-Non Fashion
Winner - Handyman
Finalist - National Bookstore

Medium Scale - Fashion
Winner - Celine
Finalists - Bayo and Freeway

Medium Scale - Non-Fashion
Winner PCX
Finalists - Bratpack and Sportshouse

Small Scale - Fashion
Winner and Hall of Fame - Islands Souvenir
Finalists - Artwork, Fino and Silveworks

Most Promising Retailer - Fashion
Winner - Beauty Bar
Finalists - Essenses and In-Style

Most Promising Retailer - Non-Fashion
Winner - Papyvore

Best Shopping Center of the Year
Winner - Shangri-La Plaza
Finalists - Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Makati

SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING FILIPINO RETAILERS 2003 BOARD OF JUDGES

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Secretary
DEPT. OF TRADE & INDUSTRY

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Chairman
PHIL. RETAILERS ASSOCIATION
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PHIL. FRANCHISE ASSOCIATION

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President
PHIL. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

ATTY. LUCIA AQUINO
President
CONSUMER PROTECTION EXEC. COUNCIL

BEST SHOPPING CENTER OF THE YEAR JUDGES

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Chief Operating Officer
PENSHOPPE (Golden ABC, Inc.)

MS. CELINE MADAMBA
Corporate Relations Manager
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MR. JOHNLU KOA
President
THE FRENCH BAKER

2003 MALL OF THE YEAR
Shangri-La Plaza represented by EVP/general manager Danila Regina I. Fojas (fourth from left) receives this year's Shopping Center of the Year Award by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in the recently concluded 2003 Outstanding Filipino Retailers (OFRA) Awards Night in Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. With Fojas are PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, PRA chair Emeritus Samie-Lim, DTI Assistant Secretary Norman Hocson, finalists Alabang Town Center represented by general manager Javier Hernandez and Ayala Center Makati represented by division manager Myrna Fernandez and PRA vice chair Roberto S. Claudio.

2003 OFR MEDIUM SCALE WINNER
Personal Care Exchange or PCX represented by general manager Eileen de Guzman accepts from DTI Assistant Secretary Norman Hocson the Medium Scale Category (Non-Fashion) award by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at the recently concluded Outstanding Filipino Retailers (OFR) Awards Night in Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Looking on are (from left) PRA president Bienvenido V. Tantoco III, finalists Sportshouse represented by marketing division manager Roy Ordiales and Bratpack represented by director Jerry Sy, with Blims Fine Furniture EVP Carrie Lim and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr. PCX made its mark as high-end one-stop-shop offering wide range of internationally popular health and beauty products.

Islands Souvenirs president Jay Aldeguer receives the trophy for the Small Scale Category (Fashion) and Hall of Fame award from PRA chair emeritus Samie Lim in the recently concluded Outstanding Filipino Retailers (OFR) Awards night at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City.

2003 OFR MEDIUM SCALE WINNER
Celine represented by chair and CEO Chan Kok Bin (fifth from left) accepts DTI Assistant Secretary Norman Hocson the Medium Scale Category (Fashion) award by the Philippine Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) at the recently concluded Outstanding Filipino Retailers (OFR) Awards Night in Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City. Looking on are (from left) PRA president Bienvenido v. Tantoco III, finalists Bayo represented by marketing and special events officer Veronica Gonzales, Freeway with COO Sheree Jane Gotuaco, PRA chair emeritus Samie Lim. EVP and general manager Shangri-La Plaza Corp. Regina Danilla I. Fojas and business development manager of Bench Jed Arboleda. Today, Celine enjoys a strong presence in all major shopping malls with 20 stores and has distinguished itself as the ultimate store for quality footwear fashion.

2003 OFR winners

CELINE (Medium Scale Fashion Category)

Its 25 years of experience in the fashion retail business that has established Celine as one of the premier names in the industry. Today, Celine enjoys a strong presence in all the major shopping malls with 20 stores in Metro Manila and in key cities all over the country. It has opened two stores - CMG and Little Ones, to meet the needs of its growing and advertising clientele. Winner of the PRA 1999 Outstanding Filipino Retailers Award for the Medium Scale Store Fashion Category, recipient of the Ayala Malls' Merchandising Excellence award in 2001, and winner of the Most Outstanding Leather Goods Brand award last year, Celine has distinguished itself as the ultimate store for quality footwear fashion.

PCX (Medium Scale Non Fashion Category)

Personal Care Exchange, or PCX, last year's PRA Most Promising Retailer Awardee, made its mark as a high-end one-stop-shop health and beauty boutique after opening its first branch in 1997. Its wide range of internationally popular health and beauty products has captured the trendy teen market after securing a considerable patronage among the upper and middle market female shoppers. With its impressive product line and store management style, PCX also garnered the Store Operations Excellence Award given by Ayala Center in 2001 and 2002.

ISLANDS SOUVENIRS (Small Scale Fashion Category)

From its first outlet in Cebu, Islands Souvenirs now has grown to a hundred branches across the country and successfully expanding its network abroad in Japan, Singapore and the US. Twice awarded the Small-Scale Fashion Category winner in 1997 and again last year, Islands Souvenirs now has the distinction of being an Outstanding Filipino Retailer Hall of Fame Awardee. This recognition attests to the excellence shown by Islands Souvenirs in making the country a popular world-class destination showcasing the country's natural beauty and the Filipino people's talent.

BAR (Most Promising Retailer Category)

The strength and success of Beauty Bar comes from four critical elements - a distinctive concept that appeals to a well-defined market, exciting brands and products not available anywhere else in the country, an interactive environment that promotes product trial in-store, and excellent customer service borne by the vast retail knowledge and experience of Store Specialists Inc. Opened in 1999, Beauty Bar serves its discriminating clientele through seven free-standing stores located in premier shopping complexes in Metro Manila spreading the Beauty Bar experience to a wider customer base.

PAPYVORE (Most Promising Retailer - Non Fashion Category)

Papyvore comes from two words - "papyrus" or paper, and "vore" meaning lover. The store caters to a market that loves to read. It carries a variety of local and foreign magazines and publications of varied interests. Started in November of 2001, Papyvore now has 10 company-owned branches. Its aggressive growth proves that it has captured the exacting taste of the reading public by offering the latest in the printed word. Papyvore plans to continue expanding in other areas satisfying its customers with anything and everything worth reading.

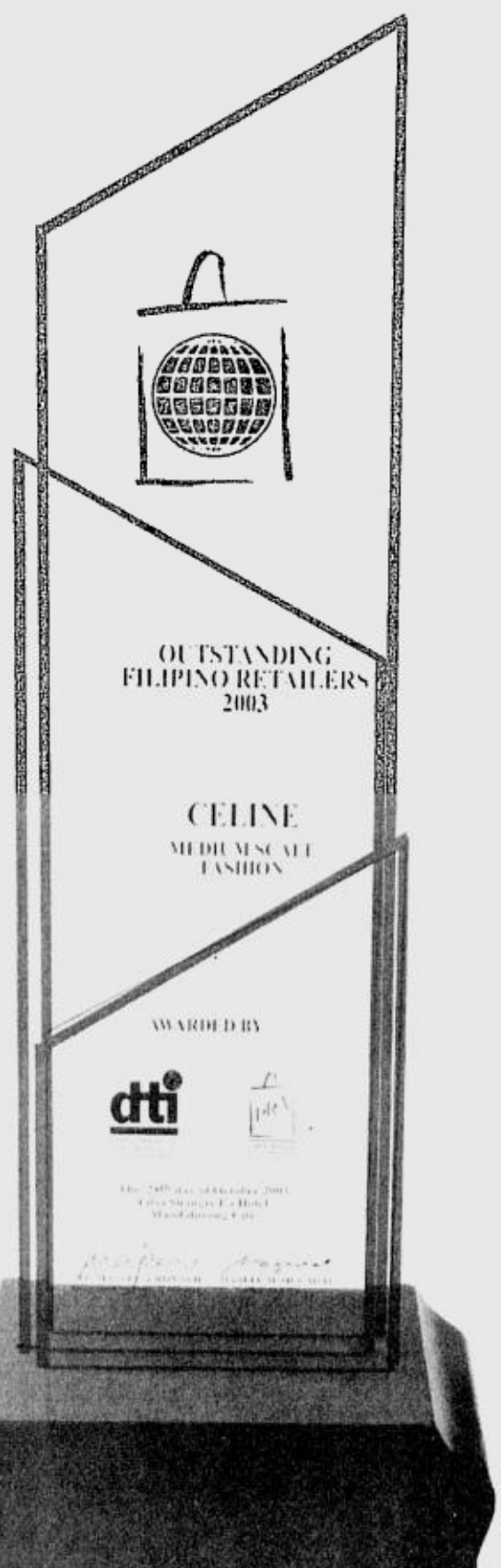
HANDYMAN (Category Specialist Non-Fashion)

Established in 1994, Handyman, including the Handyman Do It Best chain, operates a total of 37 stores nationwide making it the fastest growing hardware and home improvement chain in the country. Compared to traditional do-it-yourself hardware stores, Handyman offers a wide range of competitively priced home improvement products complemented by superior shopping convenience and excellent customer service.

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA (Mall of the Year

Shangri-La Plaza is the Philippines' pioneer upscale shopping and lifestyle destination. It houses over 400 international and local brand names and has five anchor stores under its roof. Aside from a satisfying and enjoyable shopping experience, it is actively committed in bringing art and culture, education and environmental awareness to mall as well. Impressed with its commitment, Shangri-La was awarded the Maki Merit Award in 1999 given by the International Council of Shopping Centers.

TO
GOD
BE THE
GLORY



CELINE
2003 OUTSTANDING FILIPINO RETAILER
MEDIUM SCALE - FASHION

To those who opened the doors
to let the sunshine in

To those whose presence
made our mall always in fashion

To those whose palates
we tickled through the years

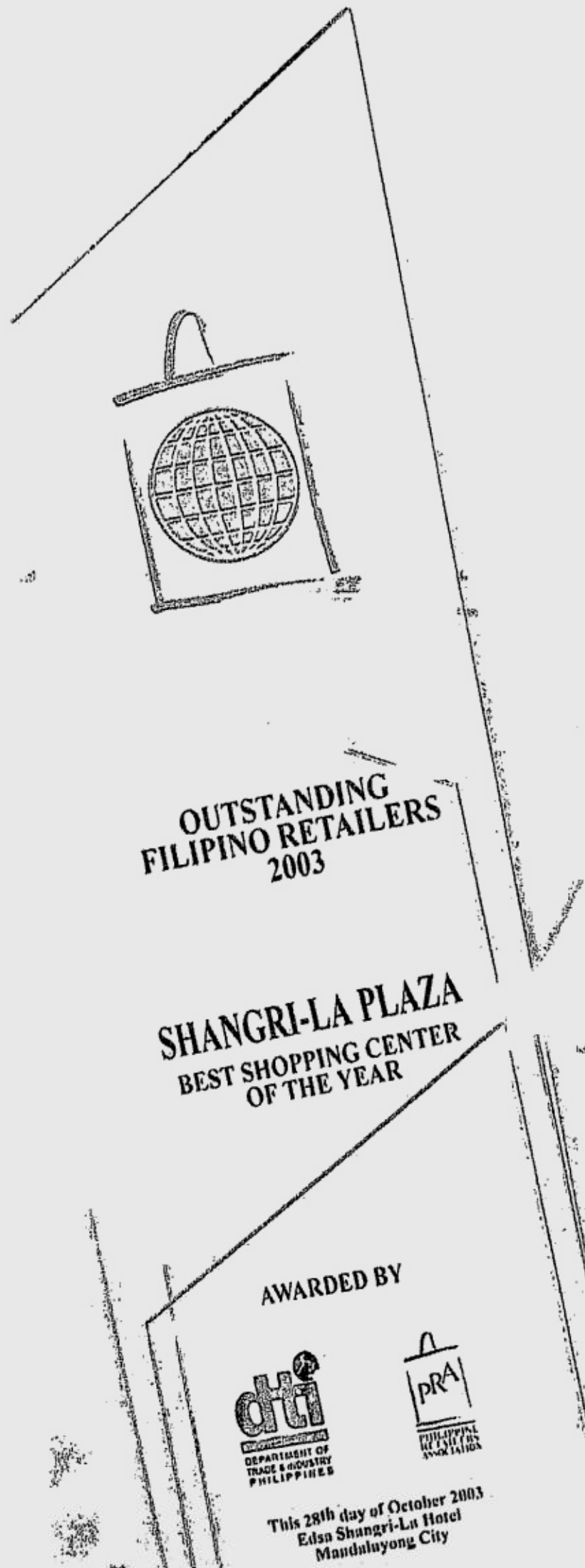
To those whose artistic sensibilities
found an expression here

To those who turned this place into a marvel
and made every guest feel at home

To those who've always had a passion
for being the best

To all of you -- our guests, partners and
the Shang family...

Thank you
for making us the
Best Shopping Center
of the Year



Shangri-La Plaza

The Season of Giving begins

A Variety of gift ideas for all ages

Text and photos
By Marlet D. Salazar

TIRED of giving—and receiving—the same old, same old presents each year? Tired of recycling generic gifts you received from Christmas past?

Aside from being creative, which not everyone is, try to be more practical. There are gifts out there that may not instantly look like a "gift material" but will actually be more appreciated by the recipient. These items don't have to be that colorful, but can be used everyday at home or at work.

Gifts don't have to be big or small, cheap or expensive. This may be an overused cliché but still, it's always the thought that counts especially if the gift tells something about the person.

There are stores out there that offer a good selection of practical gifts. But if you want to become more personal, Color Me Mine, a painting ceramics store, can help. A popular holiday season giveaway like a mug can spell a difference once you paint it yourself. You just have to put some of yourself into the gifts you want to give. The magic lies in knowing the person whom you want to give something to.

There are authentic rare finds for Chinese antique collectors at Art of Asia. For the superstitious and for those who believe in symbolism, this is the right place for gifts.

If you are generous enough—though price is not the only measure of what to give—Simply Gold has pinky rings fit for everyday wear.

For fashion conscious women, Faro and Homme et Femme has a variety of Italian dresses that you cannot find in other stores.

And because this time of the year is most especially for kids, Mothercare carries exclusive brands from the United Kingdom. Does a three-wheeler sporty stroller sound inviting enough to be a present? While Casa Batibot offers kiddie furniture which are locally made. The items look fun for the kids. A bus bed may be too big to wrap, but because it comes with a built-in study table, kids will be assured to have fun with it.

For men whom most think are the hardest to find gifts for, think again. A car polisher may not really be that glamorous a gift, but don't you think it would be much appreciated? Han's Tools also has camping gears like a portable gas range which comes with a mini gas tank that can last for two hours! Plus an auto repair kit, power tool and hand tool set make perfect gifts for those who like to do things in the house.

You don't have to go far or wrack your brains out thinking about the best gift you could give. For others, take a break from giving generics this time.

All these shops are found in Shangri-La Plaza Mall, named as the Best Shopping Center of the Year by the Department of Trade and Industry and PRA.

give the gifts that express how important they are

Embrace the season of sharing, of pleasures and feasts of little luxuries and irresistible treats.
Presenting the finest foods and wines, beautifully presented in gift sets and hampers.

P2000.00
Classic Favourites

don't wait 'til
christmas
October 19 - November 30

Take advantage of our Early Shoppers Dividend Checks (Gift Vouchers). For every P5,000 purchase, you get a dividend check worth P250 if you shop on or before November 30, 2003. Avoid the rush and get a reward!

Wine gift sets are available beginning October 19; food hampers starting November 16

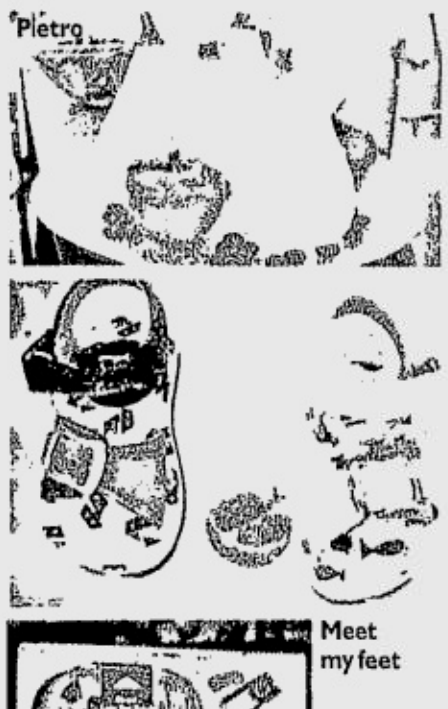
FPW DTI-NCR Permit No 3181 Series of 2003

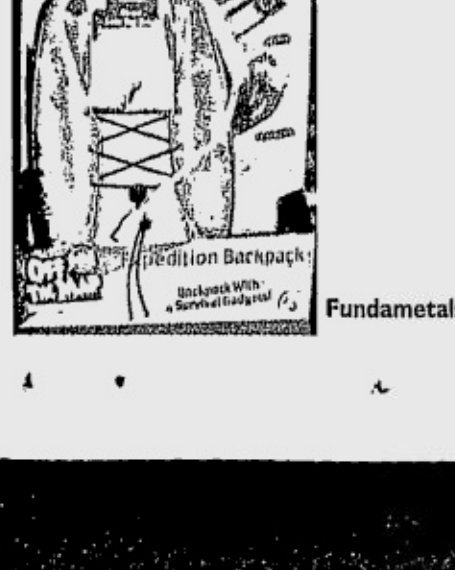
French Solo | Pure Indulgence | Sparkling Duet | The Luxury Collection | Italian Trio

MARKS & SPENCER

Glorietta 4 (752-7471) • Greenbelt 3 (757-4816) • Shangri-La Plaza Mall (637-2480)
Alabang Town Center (842-4558) • SM Megamall A (632-1473)
Robinsons Place Manila (522-7871/76) • Rustan's Harrison Plaza (526-0857)
Power Plant Mall (898-0946-48) • Ayala Center Cebu (032-234-1005)
Robinsons Starmills Pampanga (045-636-3546) • Robinsons Galleria East Wing (634-4234)
Also available at Rustan's Supermarket (Makati and Rockwell Center)

Rustan Marketing Specialists, Inc. (RMSI) is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines





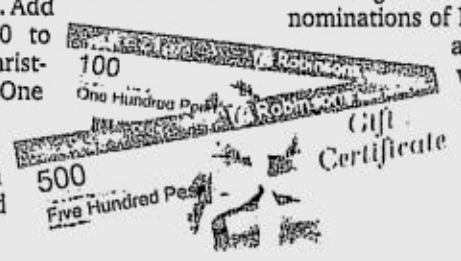
The One Touch 320 is also packed with a calendar enhanced with daily and monthly view, alarm and SMS reminder to enable users to organize their schedule and keep up with birthdays, important appointments, and the coolest gimmicks

THERE are as many gift possibilities this Christmas as there are ways to express your love. And in this age of variety, presents don't have to come in neatly wrapped boxes. Here are some "gift" suggestions to delight the unique other.

...Communications

Alcatel introduces a phone that would be appreciated by your loved ones-the new **One Touch 320.** Easy, functional, fun, and affordable, the One Touch 320 has a light, compact, and ergonomic frame that is easy to hold. At a mere 80 grams, it fits snugly in your bag and feels barely there in your shirt pocket. It also has a directory that can store up to 100 names and as many as five caller groups each with its own ring tone and icon. It can also keep you in touch for the holidays effortlessly through its easy user interface composed of a large graphic display screen and soft keys that make texting and viewing animation graphics a breeze.

The One Touch 320 is also packed with a calendar enhanced with daily and monthly view, alarm and SMS reminder to enable users to organize their schedule and keep up with birthdays, important appointments, and the coolest gimmicks. Add the One Touch 320 to your must-gives Christmas list. The Alcatel One Touch 320 is priced at just P3,190 inclusive of a SIM pack in Smart outlets and dealers nationwide.



...Shopping

A most practical and convenient gift to give this Holiday season? **Robinsons Department Stores** (RDS) gift certificates, that's what.

RDS' gift certificates give bearers the license to shop 'til they drop (or until the GCs run out).

The department store has a great selection of quality merchandise for fashion-savvy men and women, homemakers, executives, working moms teens and kids all under one roof. And the best thing about them? They're available at varied prices to suit anyone's budget.

RDS gift certificates, which come in denominations of P100 and P500, are honored at all RDS branches nationwide so family and friends will have the convenience of shopping at the RDS branch nearest them.

RDS gift certificates are available at RDS customer service counters everyday.

...Side income

Gioelli International Inc, a direct seller company engaged in fashion jewelry and perfumes from France, is offering pre-Christmas jobs for housewives, students, out-of-school youths, as well as employees from private companies and government agencies who would want to work full or part-time.

Sudarshan K. Khadka, Gioelli president, says many of its sales people are earning well selling Gioelli products during their free time or after office hours.

Khadka cites Senator Manny Villar who exhorts people to try entrepreneurship. Khadka said the senator's own life is a good example: he started out by selling shrimps and other merchandise.

Khadka says Gioelli staff enjoy selling 24 klad jewelry, French perfumes, faux leather hand bags and wallets.

Those interested can visit the Gioelli office at 1264 Batangas Street, Makati City or call 810-3502, 889-4725.

...Creative writing

Give the gift of learning this Christmas. At a 40-percent discount from its usual price, **Corban Daycare and Tutorial Center** will hold the seminar "Creative Writing, Simple and Easy" for college students and adults, to be held on two consecutive Saturdays, Dec. 6, 13 and 20 from 9 to 11 a.m.

The seminar will teach four techniques to facilitate the generation of creative ideas, overcome blocks and discover one's own authentic voice, enabling you to write better and faster.

Facilitator Mona Gonzalez is a veteran journalist who has been published locally and overseas as a columnist, book writer, editor, and feature writer. She has a Master's Degree in Journalism from Boston University.

Interested parties can call Corban at 842-6665 or 809-3050, or 0917-6297718, or visit MB Aguirre Building at President's Avenue corner Elizalde Street, Parañaque.

...Hearty repast

Following on the heels of Pier One Bar and Grill, another major dining favorite, **Marina Ilonggo Restaurant** is also set to open its outlet at Boom na Boom along Roxas Boulevard, now fast becoming a lifestyle and entertainment hub.

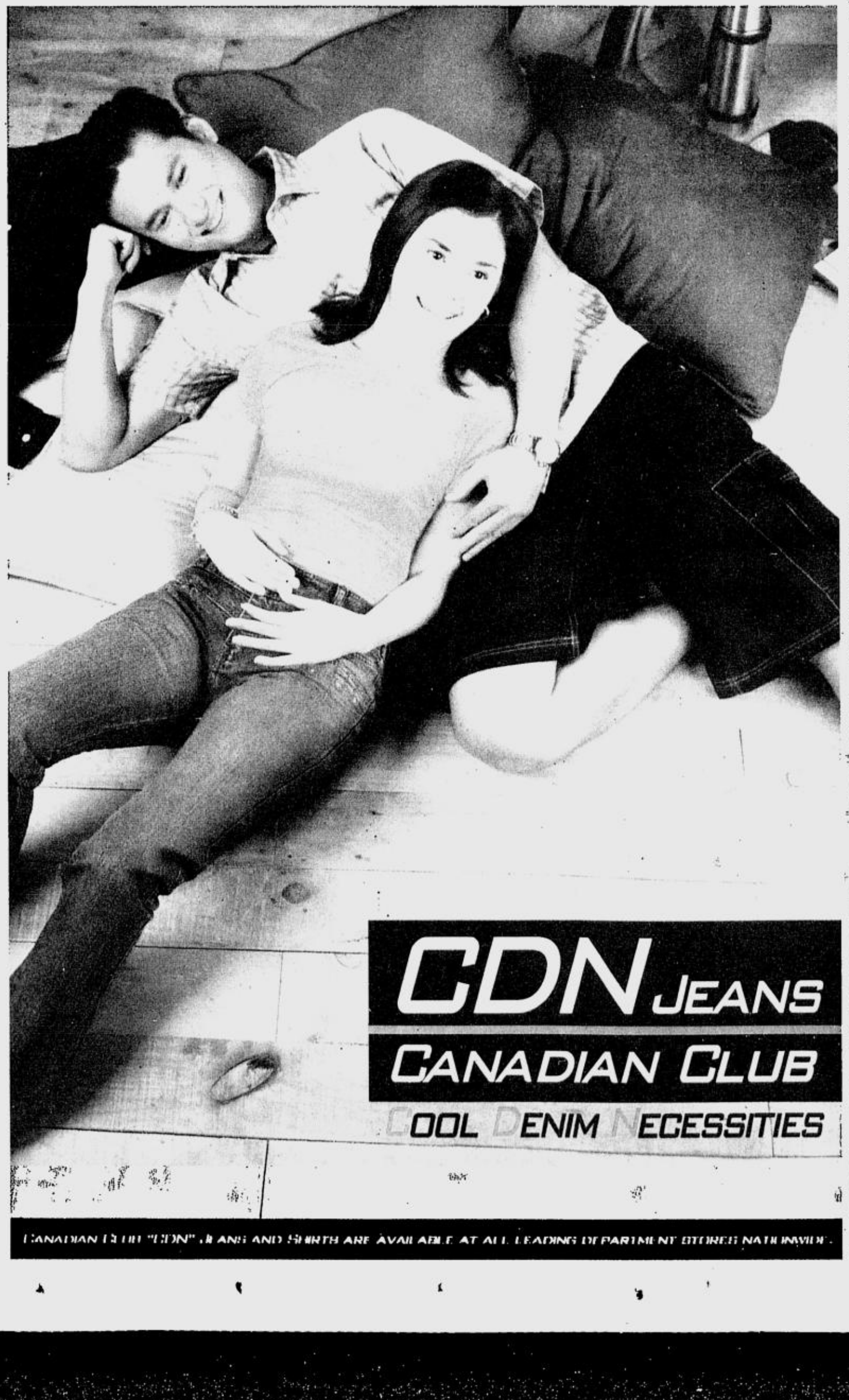
RP Gorriceta of Iloilo-based Marina said the Boom na Boom outlet will be its flagship branch in Metro Manila since it is the biggest in terms of land area and seating capacity. It stands in a 1,200 square-meter property and can seat up to 400 people.

Gorriceta said the Marina Roxas Boulevard outlet will open shortly after Boom na Boom's signature carnival and amusement park formally opens this Saturday, Nov. 29.

Marina at Boom na Boom will feature, aside from Ilonggo cuisine and fresh seafoods directly flown in daily from Iloilo, roasted native chicken, fish, lechon, roast calf and other grilled specialties.

Designed as a family-oriented dining destination, Marina at Boom na Boom will feature cabanas, al fresco dining areas, outdoor tables, a children's play area, a roasting pit, as well as air-conditioned rooms. The dry run is slated on the first week of December.

Meanwhile, Abenson has also cooked up its own Christmas treat. Abenson once more gives away Noche Buena baskets to its clients. Purchase of selected appliances entities one to a basket of food treats to fill the dinner table on Noche Buena. Serve sumptuous pasta, fruit cocktail for dessert and refreshing juices for the whole family. These treats are given away at all Abenson stores on a wide selection of appliances.



Purchase of selected appliances entitles one to a basket of food treats to fill the dinner table on Noche Buena

...Peace, life, and clean Earth

This season provides Pilipinos with more opportunities to manifest the "Galing Pilipino" spirit than at any other time of the year.

This Christmas, the **Galing Pilipino Movement** (GPM) has launched a unique and heartwarming showcase of what is good and excellent-what is "galing"-about being Pilipino through the Pamaskong Galing Pilipino (PGP) 2003 project. Together with its cause-partners, the project aims to rally Pilipinos here and abroad to project the Philippines as the "Christmas capital of the world" as depicted in the Pilipinos' bayanihan spirit of sharing and camaraderie.

GPM will spearhead the "Light-a-Tree-for-Unity" project, a fund-raising drive for the benefit of five major causes using Christmas trees and light bulbs as the medium of donation. Red bulbs will go to the Red Cross, Green bulbs to Bantay Kalikasan, Yellow for SOS Children's Villages Philippines, Blue bulbs for PeaceBuild Mindanao and White bulbs for Care-Giver Centers for the Elderly. Corporate sponsored Christmas trees bearing these "donated" bulbs will be displayed at the Luneta Park.

On Dec. 16, 7 p.m., the project will mark a milestone with the simultaneous first lighting of the Pamaskong Galing Pilipino trees at the Luneta and the singing of "Pasko na Naman" in unison by every Pilipino wherever he may be in the world. The country known for its musical ability will, thus, serenade the world with an OPM Christmas carol as our "Pamaskong Alay sa Mundo, Galing sa Pilipino".

GPM is a non-profit private sector initiative that has evolved a dynamic series of activities to stir up our countrymen to recognize, affirm and propagate what is good and excellent about being Pilipino. Corporations or groups can sponsor PGP trees for P150,000. Individuals can make colored bulb donations at P150 each. Donors select the cause to which their donation will be applied. The United Architects Association of the Philippines (UAP) provided the Christmas tree design.

For more information on the GPM and the PGP project, call 631-3932 or fax 633-1089, or log on to www.galingpilipino.com, or call Louwe or Francis at the PGP marketing office at 687-2249 or 687-2259.

'Tiangge' happenings in Taguig, Greenhills

A THREE-in-one event dubbed "Christmas Festival 2003 at FTI" will be held from Nov. 29 to Jan. 11, 2004 at the Food Terminal Inc Complex in Taguig.

Organized by the GPI-Special Projects Network (912-5803 and 437-1660) in cooperation with Lucky Amusement and Variety Show, the objectives of the 44-day annual event are to provide small and medium entrepreneurs with an affordable venue where they can promote their products and services, to attract local and foreign investors to invest in Taguig, and to raise funds for the livelihood projects of the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation Inc.

GPI-SPN managing director George Arriola said the Christmas Festival will showcase a Grand Carnival offering different rides for the whole family, a Trade Fair where special bargains will be featured, and a Night Market where anybody can shop and dine after office hours.

WOW Greenhills sale

Now on its 10th year, the early Christmas sale at the Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan, Metro Manila, continues to draw shoppers who would like to avail themselves of state-of-the-art, high quality, low-priced Filipino crafted products. Now known as WOW Greenhills, in consonance with the WOW Philippines project of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, the trade festival is organized by Prime Asia Trade Planner and Convention Organizer (Patepco), headed by president Henry Babiera.

On sale are Christmas wares, home decors, toys, gifts and corporate giveaways. It also showcases modern, American, Oriental, turn-of-the-century furniture and furnishings, sculptural pieces, ivory and wooden Catholic icons, ceramics, porcelain, lamps, chandeliers, potteries, wrought iron, wood crafts, novelty items, cell phones and accessories and related services, communication equipment and gadgets, office equipment and supplies, computers, appliances, sporting goods, leather goods, pets and exotic flora.

Buy now, pay next year at 0% interest

IT'S WAY past the rainy season but a big storm looms over Pinoy shoppers. Fortunately, it's a much-awaited downpour-of big discounts, that is!

Equitable CardNetwork Inc unleashes its pre-holiday salvo with its E-Pay Installment Plan Promo, an exciting nationwide promotion that allows cardholders of Equitable Visa, Equitable MasterCard or Equitable JCB Card to splurge now-and pay next year.

To run until Dec. 14, Equitable Card's promo allows Equitable cardholders to avail themselves of its amazing 0-percent interest for 3, 6, 9 or 12-month payment terms for a minimum purchase of P3,000 in any of the participating establishments. Reduced interest rates will also be applied on purchases of at least P10,000 for 18 to 24-month payment terms.

What's more, purchases made within the promo period will only be billed the following year and will reflect on the cardholder's Jan. 15 or 30, 2004 billing statement.

"This will allow our cardholders not only to maximize the purchasing power of their Equitable cards but also to practically double it. They can also start their Christmas shopping this early as the bills won't pile up come December because charging begins next year in January," explains Fol Rana, vice president, card sales and marketing-retail.

Indeed, the further good news is that cardholders will enjoy a separate credit limit for all their E-Pay transactions equivalent to 100 percent of their regular credit limit.

So, what are you waiting for? Avail yourself of Equitable Card's E-Pay Installment Plan Promo and deck your homes for the holidays with new furniture and appliances from Abenson, HomePlus, Electroworld, Automatic Centre, Sogo and Blims, or acquire those long cherished jewelry from La Elegancia and watches from Omega & Longines, or upgrade your cameras with new Konica, Olympus, Casio and Nikon models from Columbia outlets.

Qualified cardholders may call the 24-hour Equitable Hello Service at 867-7977 (Metro Manila) for more information on Equitable Card's promo.

Participating bank tie-ups include Allied Bank, Asiatrust Bank, Banco Filipino, Bank of Commerce, Land Bank, Luzon Development Bank, Keppel Monte, PNB, Prudential Bank, Prudentialife, and United Coconut Planters Bank.

Holiday fashion for boys and girls

DRESSING up kids this Christmas need not be a hassle for moms and dads as Crossings Department Store presents a wide variety of apparel at its Infants' and Children's Section. The collections include polos, shirts, pants, and shorts for boys, while options for the young misses consist of checkered dresses, bootleg pants, off-shoulder blouses, denim pants and basic tees. Complementing these kiddiewear is an assortment of footwear and accessories such as caps, scarves, cool shades, bags, and even stuffed toys. The collections include popular character brands such as Hello Kitty, Moose Gear, Disney Princess, Sesame Street and a lot more.

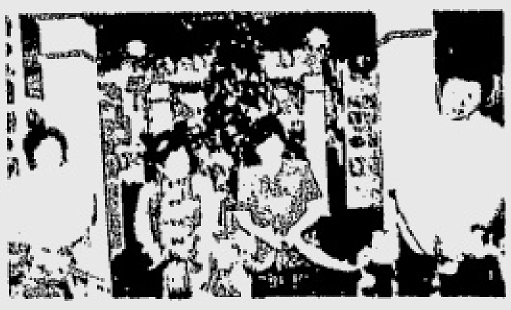
The Children's Section is located at the Fashion Pavilion of Crossings Department Store, with branches at Shangri-la Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City and Quezon Avenue corner Scout Borromeo and Northridge Plaza along Congressional Avenue.

Casio, SM Foundation offer gift of music to children

CASIO EMI, leading industry player in the field of electronic instruments, has joined hands with SM Foundation Inc (SMFI) and its closest partner the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to "Make a Child Happy" this yuletide season.

As part of the endeavor, all SM Supermall branches nationwide have set up booths to receive toys on behalf of underprivileged children. At the launching event held at SM Bicutan's Activity Center, DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman expressed full support to the project and joined executives of Casio EMI represented by Belrewmond Trading Inc and SM. At hand were SMFI executive director Connie Angeles and Toy World VP-operations Rose Marie Dylim.

A highlight of the program was the musical storytelling led by professor Yangky Agustin of the UP Department of Family Life and Child Development, which had children who hadn't played a musical instrument before trying the Casio keyboard and joining in the musical fun.



AT THE ribbon-cutting ceremony is DSWD Sec. Dinky Soliman (2nd from left) with (from left) Toy World VP-operations Rose Marie Dylim, SM Foundation Inc executive director Connie Angeles, and Belrewmond Trading Inc president Richmond Lim.

DSWD has been working with SM Foundation in assisting the poorest of the poor through various outreach programs for six years now. The "Make a Child Happy" annual program would go a long way, Soliman acknowledged. She added Casio EMI's gift of music (Casio having committed to donate portion of sales for every Casio keyboard sold from Dec. 1, 2003 to Jan. 30, 2004 to SM Foundation, and grant music scholarships to 10 scholars of the same Foundation) is also a welcome move, considering that music serves as an effective therapy, especially for young and troubled souls. DSWD is presently assisting 70 centers catering to abandoned babies as well as children who are victims of sexual abuse, parental neglect and who have been in conflict with the law but have reformed their ways.

SM Foundation's "Make a Child Happy: Share a Toy 2003" program started out in 1997 as a simple Christmas Corner at the mall, proceeds of which went to young sick patients of government hospitals. The idea caught on and soon expanded with the support of different companies and institutions.

Sweets n More's 40% off on baking classes

WITH the onset of the Holiday season, Sweets n More is sharing the Christmas spirit by offering big discounts on all baking classes for November and December. Not only that, it also retails chocolate blocks, molders, confectionery/baking ingredients, packaging materials such as colored foil and boxes at "divisoria" prices.

"Goodies for Giveaways" will help you make pastries great as gifts, and includes Loaded Choco Bar Supreme, Fruit and Nut Bar, Soft Chocolate Crinkles, Marble Fudge Bar and Mango Bar on Dec. 6. Surprise your family this coming holiday season with great tasting cakes.

Classics such as Peaches and Crème Torte and Black Forest, and also refreshing twists like Black and White Cake, Choco Wafer Stick Chocolate Cake and Pandan Macapuno Delight will be concocted on Nov. 29, 1 p.m.

"Goodies for Giveaways" makes a comeback with other classic recipes like

'Goodies for Giveaways' makes a comeback with other classic recipes

Food for the Gods, Butterscotch Squares, Butter Oatmeal Cookies, Mango Square and Holiday Fudge Bar to be created in a special Sunday class on Nov 30.

Our favorite breads: rolls and ensaymadas are next on Nov. 29, 8:30 a.m., and Cheesecakes n More on Dec. 6, 8:30 a.m.

Chocolate Molding sessions are held by appointment and include starter kits. For complete schedules, inquiries or reservations, call 536-5468 or 0916-8758704. E-mail sweetsnmore2003@yahoo.com. Sweets n More is located at 1225 Estrada Street corner Aquino Street, Malate near LRT V. Cruz station.

CDN Canadian Club's denim choices for different body types

CDN CANADIAN Club Jeans offers a gift of style this Christmas to fashion-conscious females as it features six jean cuts for different body types.

Whether your body's the boyish, the curvy or full size, CDN Canadian Club Jeans has the right style for you. You even have two choices of each body type-tailor-fit jeans.

Women with boyish or straight figures can bring out their curves with these two varieties of jeans that wrap around the body like a glove. The first is a slim cut piece with straight legs that snugly fits from the hips down. The second is made of stretch fabric and embraces small hips, best worn by women who don't pack much in the back. Flowing down to a slight boot cut, the jeans hug the thighs comfortably enough for movement.

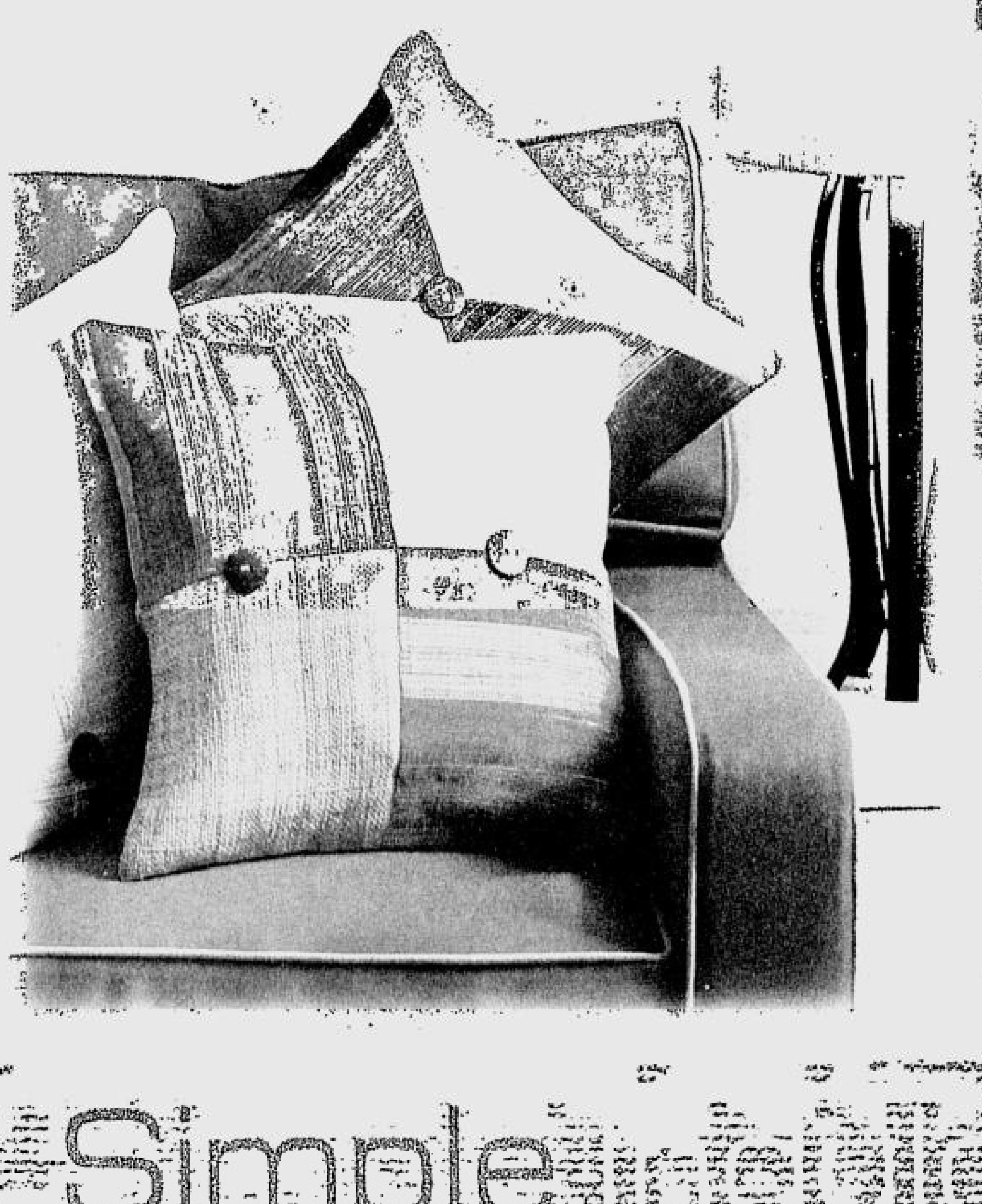
For women who already have the curves in the right places, a choice between two Curvy styles should give emphasis to what matters most in a lady-small waist, ample hips. Both jean types sit below the waist to achieve the emphasis on the curves.

The first type is a pair of flared jeans with whiskers and the denim look of the season-sandblast that gives the material a natural-worn look. The other style is a stretch booted pair with stitches and rivets detailing.

Full-sized women should be happy to know that CDN Canadian Club Jeans also have a choice of style that's all their own. The first is a high-waisted pair that has roomy thighs and straight legs to make for a comfortable fit. This variety runs up to size 38.

The other style is a bootcut pair, relaxed through hips and thighs. Bolder women can get this pair in stretch fabric. Both pair types run up to size 38 for more choices.

Whatever works best for you, gift yourself with the most flattering styles this Christmas with CDN Canadian Club Jeans.



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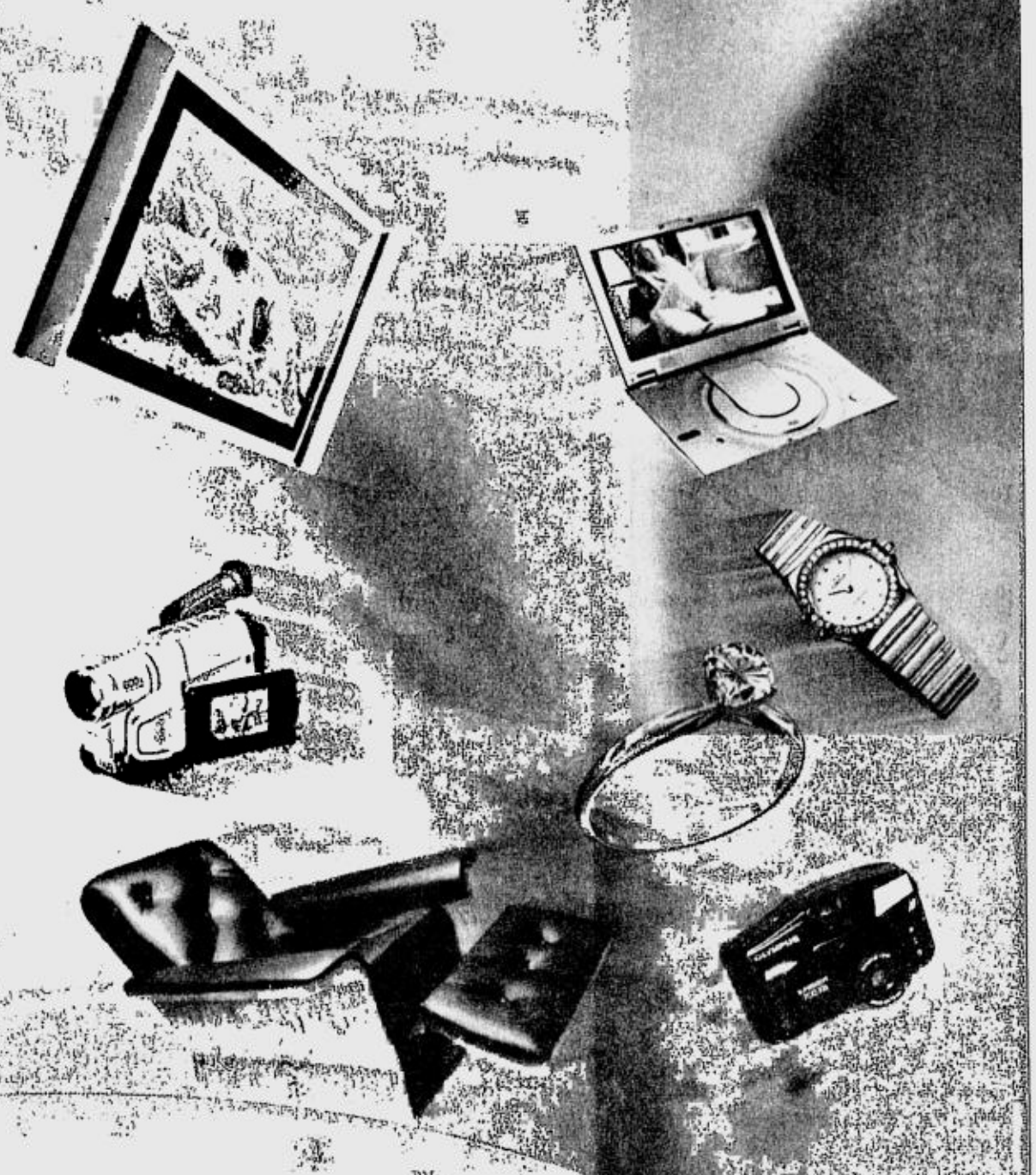

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PLDT When the FUTURE ARRIVES, we will be THERE.

75 YEARS OF PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS SOLUTIONS TO ALL FILIPINOS

PLDT MILESTONES

1928
Governor General Henry Stimson signed into law on November 28, a bill passed by the Philippine Legislature giving PLDT the franchise to establish and operate telephone services in the country.

1947
US military authorities turned over in August 1947 the telephone system to PLDT.

1967
PLDT became a Filipino-controlled corporation on December 20, when a group of Filipino industrialists and businessmen headed by Ramon Cojuangco acquired the block of shares owned by the General Telephone and Electronics Corporation of New York.

1986
PLDT underwent an organizational change. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors, Alfonso Yuchengco was reelected Chairman while Antonio O. Cojuangco was elected President and Chief Executive Officer.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a time machine could bring us back to 1928 so we can see the beginnings of PLDT, the leading telecommunications company in the country?

Time travel is theoretically possible; the existence of particles that can travel faster than light supports this. However, as we wait for the technology to develop, we can only content ourselves with annual reports, newspaper articles, books, and other documents to satisfy our atavistic longings.

10 BILLS GIVEN SIGNATURE OF GOV. STIMSON

Long-Distance Phone Franchise Bill Becomes Law

SALARIES RAISED

Act Creating P. I. Trade Commission Post Is Also Approved

G.G. Signs Long Distance Teleph

Gov. Gen. Henry Stimson signing into a law the bill that granted PLDT's franchise.

The beginning

When PLDT was incorporated and given the franchise to establish and operate telephone services in the country on November 28, 1928, a typhoon had just ravaged Eastern Visayas, Bicol Peninsula and Samar. The ability to communicate amongst loved ones and across the country became crucial. Sadly, phone networks were like disconnected intercom systems and you could only call people within your own small city. Otherwise, you were disconnected from the nearby town, disconnected from your friends in the other island, and needless to say, disconnected from the rest of the world. It was under this scenario that the law was signed giving birth to PLDT.

What the new law hoped to achieve was to interconnect these "intercom" systems into a seamless nationwide network that would facilitate communication and delivery of services to the people, as well as spur economic development in the countryside.

Important milestone

The first president of PLDT was Theodore Vail Halsey while Major J.E. Hamilton Stevenot, who represented the American firm General Telephone and Electronics Corp. (GTE), was elected executive vice president and general manager.

Under the American owners of PLDT, many small phone companies in the provinces were acquired to help speed up the rollout and interconnection of these systems. The management of PLDT was then set to lay the groundwork towards linking Filipinos to each other and more importantly, to the world.

Manila-Baguio link

Just a year after PLDT was given its nationwide franchise, the link between Manila and Baguio was established, making the first national long distance calls possible.

Overseas radio-telephone service was also established between the Philippines and the US and other parts of the world in 1933, making the country less isolated from the modern world.

The first network of PLDT employed the open-wire system, which was difficult to maintain and was vulnerable to rain, winds, dirt, and tampering. Service vehicles were drawn by horses in the early years and the very first units were bulky wall-mounted telephones. PLDT then charged a princely sum of P7.50 a month.

The war years in the 1940s that followed proved to be devastating to PLDT as the US armed forces destroyed the PLDT system to prevent the Japanese from using it in 1941. By the time the Americans regained control, only 10 percent of the original facilities were operational.

Filipinos take control

By 1968, a new era of PLDT leadership was ushered in. PLDT finally became a Filipino-controlled corporation when Ramon Cojuangco and his group of Filipino industrialists and businessmen bought the controlling stake of GTE of New York.

It was a symbol of national pride and a moment of triumph for Filipinos. Under Cojuangco's leadership, PLDT embarked on ambitious expansion campaigns that led to more Filipinos owning and benefiting from phones.

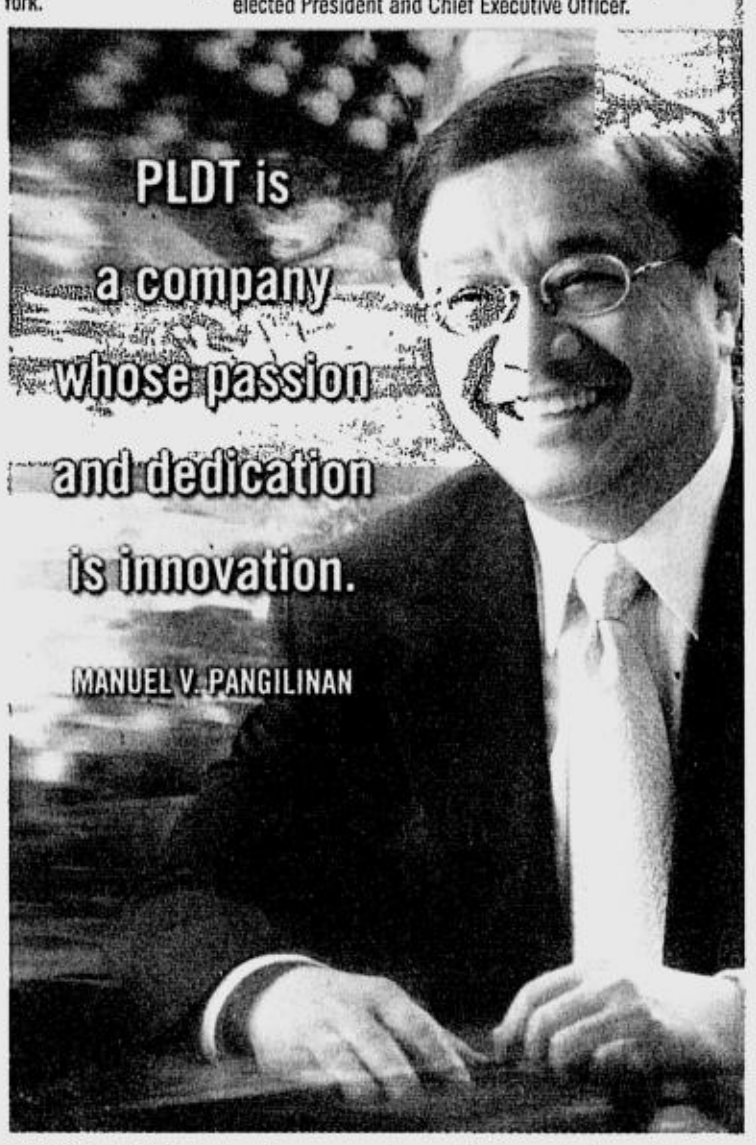
Several milestones were realized in Cojuangco's time. In the same year when his group came in, the first major television broadcast via the facilities of Intelsat II-F4 and PLDT was brought to the Philippines direct from the US during the funeral of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Another milestone in satellite communications was achieved, with PLDT playing a major role, in the subsequent remote TV coverage of the Apollo 8 flight.

In 1972, total assets for the first time passed the billion-peso mark. PLDT's 300,000th telephone was also installed during the year as annual operating revenues exceeded P200 million. Another high point for PLDT during Cojuangco's tenure was the inauguration of PLDT's TV transmission facilities to the cities of Iloilo, Bacolod, and Cebu in 1973.

Early landline innovations

By 1982, direct distance dialing or DDD was becoming a byword for Filipinos. Subscribers then could call long distance to nine major cities across the nation and 22 countries around the world and reach through direct dialing more than 400 million telephones overseas.

This resulted to higher international call volumes that contributed to an increase in revenues. Eventually this service evolved into National Direct Dialing (NDD) and International Direct Dialing (IDD) by 1985. Subscribers were then able to make long distance calls without operator assistance.



PLDT's ascent to greater heights of success was punctuated briefly by the death of Cojuangco in 1984. Cojuangco, who was largely responsible for the transformation of PLDT from a medium-sized firm into a multi-billion peso giant, was regarded highly by PLDT employees and considered very compassionate.

It was then that Oscar T. Africa was elected as the new president while Cojuangco's son, Antonio, was elected Senior Executive Vice President.

Africa, however, retired after only two years as president. And Antonio Cojuangco succeeded him in 1986, ushering in a 12-year period of further expansion and robust business for PLDT.

By 1968, a new era of PLDT leadership was ushered in. PLDT finally became a Filipino-controlled corporation when Ramon Cojuangco and his group of Filipino industrialists and businessmen bought the controlling stake of GTE of New York.

Wireless enters the scene, more innovations happen

Another significant PLDT milestone was the establishment of the country's first cellular mobile telephone network in 1987. Cellular phones then were bulky and installed only in cars.

With this new service, people were able to communicate while on the go. Coverage, just like with the mobile radiotelephone service introduced in 1959, was wider, though still limited compared today. Subscribers then could make calls within Metro Manila and any place from Cavite to Baguio.

A slew of new services were also introduced beginning 1992. Through a partnership with American Telephone and Telegraph Co. (AT&T), PLDT introduced the USA Direct Roving Van

(next page)

PLDT's offices at Marquez de Comillas Street (now Romualdez Street), Manila after the war.

2003 The Year of PLDT

The country's largest telecom operator, is this year well on its way to recording its best financial performance since the Asian financial crisis.

Relentless innovation spurs growth

In the history of a corporate, there are those defining moments that transform its existence. For the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company, that defining year may well be 2003. PLDT, the country's largest telecom operator, is this year well on its way to recording its best financial performance since the Asian financial crisis. This is no mean achievement given the collapse of telecoms companies worldwide, stiff competition, internal restructuring and operating in a country constantly buffeted by one political crisis after another.

Positive earnings and cash flow momentum, especially from Smart Communications, its cellular subsidiary, have certainly transformed PLDT to become one of the country's best performing groups and is regarded as one of Asia's most sought-after credits. Efforts by the company to stay focused on its goals of strengthening the business, innovating new revenue streams, and maintaining market leadership have paid off.

Equally impressive is PLDT's multi-year liability management programme and aggressive initiatives to reduce operational expenses, limit capital expenditures and increase efficiencies, all of which have contributed to the telecom company's success in overcoming the daunting challenges of the past several years.

Strong cash flow

For the first nine months of 2003, PLDT registered a preliminary-unaudited consolidated net income of 11.3 billion pesos (US$206.0 million), a 140% rise over the 4.7 billion pesos it achieved for the same period in 2002. This is before taking into account provisions for manpower reduction expenses and non-cash provisions for certain investments.

Consolidated revenues grew 21% to 70.4 billion pesos from 58.2 billion pesos and consolidated EBITDA improved to 39.9 billion pesos from 33.6 billion pesos for the same period last year. PLDT's consolidated net income, after provisions, stood at 5.8 billion pesos and is projected to hurdle the 9 billion peso mark for the full year of 2003.

Underpinning the growth of the group's overall results is the exceptional showing of Smart Communications, which solidified its position as the country's leading cellular provider with over 12 million subscribers. Smart posted a net income

(next page)

PLDT

PLDT MILESTONES

1990 — PLDT's franchise was extended by another 25 years up to 2028 under Republic Act No. 7082, which clearly defines the scope of telecommunications services that PLDT can offer.

1998 — PLDT fortified its competitive position in 1998 when the First Pacific Group, a conglomerate based in Hong Kong led by Manuel V. Pangilinan, acquired a controlling stake in PLDT.

2000 — PLDT incorporated its ICT company, ePLDT.

2002 — PLDT's wireless subsidiary Smart Communications extended its leadership position in the cellular industry.

of 10.3 billion pesos for the first nine months of 2003, more than triple the 3.3 billion pesos recorded for the same period in 2002.

Indeed, exemplary subscriber growth continues to power Smart to record significant gains in revenues and EBITDA. In the first nine months of 2003, Smart increased its revenues by 50% to 34.5 billion pesos from 23.0 billion pesos in the same period last year. EBITDA climbed 69% to 20.6 billion pesos from 12.2 billion pesos as revenue maintained its strong growth ahead of the increase in expenses and EBITDA margins improved substantially from 53% last year to approximately 60%.

Smart's cleverly conceived business and marketing strategy has enabled it to breach conventionally accepted penetration rate levels and offer its services to all income brackets. Smart recently introduced "SmartLoad", an innovative "over-the-air" reload product designed for the low-end mass market. "SmartLoad" allows reloading in denominations as low as US$0.55 cents while enhancing margins compared to the traditional card reload system.

Prudent debt management

Given the exceptional financial performance, Smart has not only been able to reduce its debt by US$73 million in the first nine months of the year, it has also paid dividends of 4.3 billion pesos to PLDT. The dividend payment, which represents 70%

Transforming the landline for the next generation

of its net income in 2002 contributed significantly to helping PLDT reduce its own gearing. PLDT Fixed Line reduced its debt by US$100 million in the first nine months of 2003. In November 2003, Smart paid additional dividends of 1.9 billion to PLDT equivalent to the remaining 30% of its 2002 net income.

Apart from improving cash flows and paying down total debt, PLDT embarked on a liability management programme to improve its credit fundamentals. Despite the very uncertain market conditions of the past 18 months, PLDT raised US$644 million and skillfully executed phase one of the programme, which involved reprofiling its debt due from 2002 to 2004 and smoothing out the bunching of maturities.

Through a combination of loans and bonds, one of which was originally launched on the fateful day of September 11, 2001, PLDT successfully tapped the international capital markets to a warm response from institutional investors. In a two-tranche bond issue launched in May 2002, the company raised US$350 million in what was then the largest corporate bond issue from the Philippines since 1997 and the largest Asian corporate high-yield transaction since 2000.

The company also signed a US$145 million multicurrency loan in September 2002 in order to refinance some [55]% of principal amounts under two existing bank loans due this year.

PLDT's liability management programme was recognized by The Asset magazine, one of Asia's leading finance publications, as Best in Liability Management in an award ceremony held in Hong Kong in February 2003.

> PLDT's liability management programme was recognized by The Asset magazine as Best in Liability Management.

After successfully completing the first phase of its liability management initiative, PLDT began accelerating its deleveraging strategy by further reducing overhead, limiting capex, and paying down debt.

Attractive valuation

Strong cash flow and earnings momentum coupled with a serious programme of deleveraging plus management's decision to move towards aligning with International Accounting Standards have combined to attract the attention of equity investors. In November 2003, PLDT's share price has performed extremely well rising 280% from its low of 214 pesos in October 2002. Equity analysts who cover the stock are optimistic and believe that the stock is due for a re-rating.

"Return on equity is also recovering to pre-crisis levels and yet the company trades at less than 1.0x book value, well below its 1.7x ten-year average," writes Gillem Tulloch, an analyst with CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets. "Should the stock trade at its ten-year average, the share price would be 1,123 pesos, 69% above current levels." CLSA has set the next target price at 915 pesos from 715 pesos.

UBS Securities' Jody Santiago and Keith Neruda upgraded PLDT's earnings estimate for this year and next to 12.4 billion pesos and 15 billion pesos, respectively, in its September 2003 update. "We estimate that PLDT would be able to pay US$1.3 billion or 50% of its parent debt over the next four years," the two adds. UBS has set PLDT new target price at 880 pesos from 730 pesos.

PLDT's robust financial performance this year coincides with the company's celebration of its 75th anniversary on November 28, 2003. From offering just voice and landline based products, PLDT has transformed itself through pioneering innovations and is today the industry leader in wireless, data, Internet, multi-media and satellite communications.

"PLDT is a company whose passion and dedication is innovation," says Manuel V. Pangilinan, the president and CEO of PLDT. "Though we intend to look back and learn from the rich history of the company, our real motivation is to move forward; to continue to think ahead as innovators in the field of communications with the ultimate aim of serving our nation."

(When the future...)

Service, a mobile van equipped with cellular phones, to provide toll service to some previously unserved rural communities.

Other services introduced were USA Direct Mabuhay (dial access code 105-12); Fibernet, a point-to-point international digital leased line service capable of handling simultaneous voice and data transmissions using fiber optic cables.

Intelligent payphones, which can accept coins of several denominations, were introduced. These allowed callers to place local calls as well as collect national and international long distance calls and Country Direct calls.

The Fonkard also came into vogue. Fonkard allowed the caller to make direct-dial national and international long distance calls through the use of prepaid magnetic telephone cards instead of coins.

Innovations beyond voice

A significant milestone that changed the face of communications was the successful launching of Agila II, the country's first communications satellite, in 1997 by PLDT subsidiary Mabuhay Philippines Satellite Corp. The satellite serves the needs of customers not only in the Philippines but also other countries within the satellite's footprint in the Asia Pacific region.

With the increasing importance of the Internet, PLDT signed a network deal with US-based software giant Oracle Corp. to jointly advance the development of a network computing infrastructure in the Philippines dubbed Phil-Net. A milestone for PLDT and the development of the Internet in the Philippines would be the establishment of the country's first Internet hub called the Philippine Internet Exchange or PhIX.

Pangilinan new PLDT president

THE buy-in by First Pacific Co. Ltd. as the single largest stockholder in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. sets new grounds for the country's largest telecommunications company.

But more important, it brings into PLDT new but experienced blood at the helm of the 70-year-old corporation in what is definitely a changing of the guards.

Filipino "wonder boy" Manuel Pangilinan was appointed PLDT's new president and chief executive officer yesterday, replacing Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco, whose shares the First Pacific bought to boost its acquisition of a 17.2-percent stake.

Cojuangco was appointed nonexecutive chairman, replacing former Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo.

Innovating Management: First Pacific entry

The late '90s was a time of formidable challenges for PLDT, especially after the 1997 Asian financial crisis. Inauspicious as it may seem at the time, however, Manuel V. Pangilinan of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. saw a great opportunity in taking control of PLDT.

So on Nov. 24, 1998, a mere four days before the company's anniversary, PLDT announced the entry of First Pacific. The group acquired a 17.2-percent stake in PLDT for approximately P29.7 billion or some $749 million at that time.

The entry of the First Pacific Group brought in a new culture in PLDT and new expertise. Manuel V. Pangilinan replaced Antonio Cojuangco as president and chief executive officer. Cojuangco then assumed the position of chairman of the board.

The entry of First Pacific signaled a vote of confidence in the future of the Philippines and in PLDT in a time of great anxiety among most countries in Asia Pacific.

The following year, PLDT forged a strategic partnership with NTT Communications Corp. (NTTCom), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. of Japan, the world's leading telecommunications company in terms of revenues.

One of the key steps in repositioning PLDT was the package deal involving its acquisition of Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart), the country's largest mobile phone operator, and PLDT's strategic partnership with NTTCom. These initiatives, which were approved by the Board of Directors in September 1999 and by the stockholders in a special meeting in December 1999, were completed on March 24, 2000.

The acquisition of Smart eventually proved to be a wise decision, especially now that Smart is contributing greatly to PLDT's bottomline, thus buffering the telecom giant from the debilitating effects of declining revenues from the fixed line business.

Investing in ICT

One of the key steps undertaken in 2000 was the formation of ePLDT, the PLDT Group's principal vehicle for investments in information and communications technology.

Through its data services under the Vitro brand, its three call centers (Parlance Systems Inc., Vocativ Systems Inc., and Contact World Inc.), Internet services through Infocom Technologies Inc., data security services through mySecureSign Inc., and Internet café business through Netopia Technologies Inc., the PLDT Group is now slowly reaping the fruits of its investments.

Brains—an acronym for Broad and Robust ATM (asynchronous transfer mode) and Internet Networking Solutions—was also launched in 2000 and made PLDT the only telecommunications company with the fastest, most reliable and cost-efficient voice, data and video transmission services running

through a single multi-service network.

DSL, or digital subscriber line, was also introduced in the same year. It is a broadband access technology that allows for high-speed access to the Internet, multimedia rich content, and corporate networks via the usual copper wire lines enhanced by DSL technology.

Innovating the landline even more

The company applied a more retail-oriented approach in selling its products and services for the masses and thereby came up with Text 135, the country's first landline texting service; Premium Phone Services (1-908), which employed strategic tie-ups with TV game shows; Budget card for international calls; and bundling of value-added phone services such as Call Waiting, Call Forwarding, 3-party conference calls, Speed Calling, and Caller ID.

When the year 2002 came, PLDT continued to innovate and introduced Telesulit, a pioneering prepaid landline service where subscribers can load up their phones with P500 loads that are valid for two months and with a one-month reprieve to reload.

The latter part of 2002 showed PLDT launching a flurry of even more innovations attacking the growing data market. PLDT Vibe captured leadership position in the narrowband internet race, while PLDT Hypo fused the popularity of the cellphone with the power of the landline offering landline texting to its subscribers.

The most important achievement for the year, however, was the successful completion of the company's liability management program with a reduction of $127 million in PLDT's debts. This despite the threat of a management takeover in June 2002.

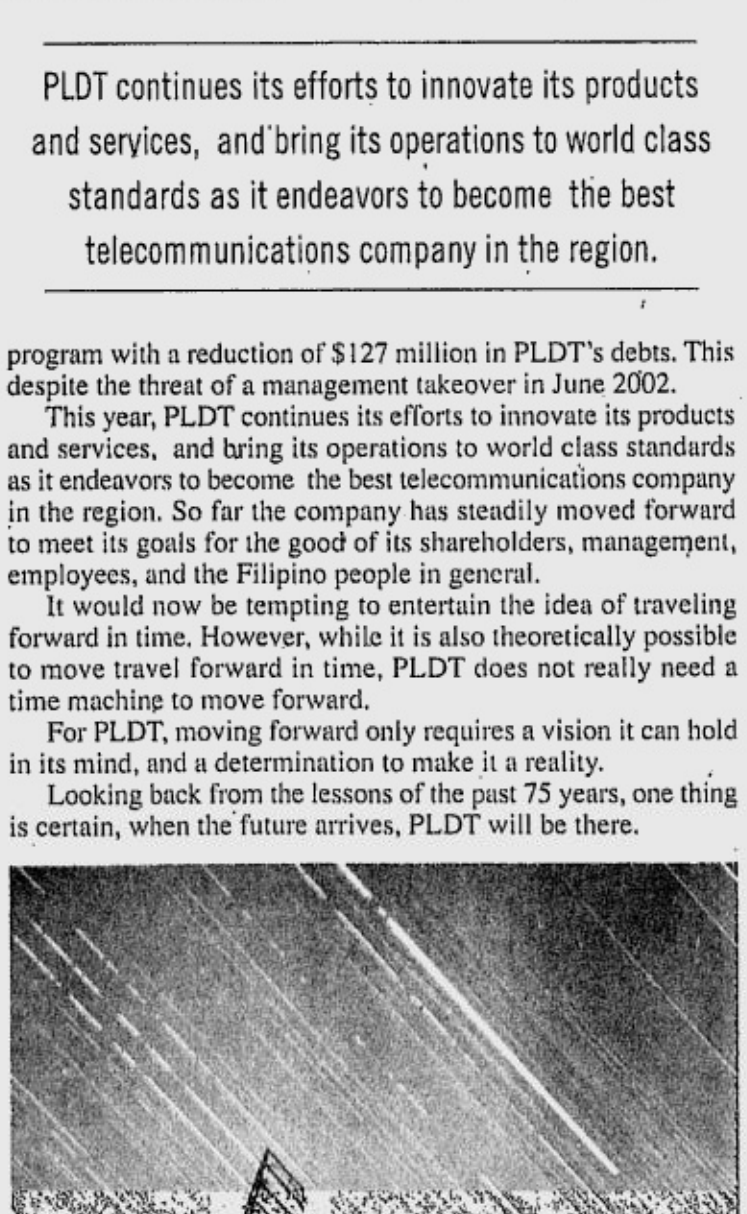
> PLDT continues its efforts to innovate its products and services, and bring its operations to world class standards as it endeavors to become the best telecommunications company in the region.

This year, PLDT continues its efforts to innovate its products and services, and bring its operations to world class standards as it endeavors to become the best telecommunications company in the region. So far the company has steadily moved forward to meet its goals for the good of its shareholders, management, employees, and the Filipino people in general.

It would now be tempting to entertain the idea of traveling forward in time. However, while it is also theoretically possible to move travel forward in time, PLDT does not really need a time machine to move forward.

For PLDT, moving forward only requires a vision it can hold in its mind, and a determination to make it a reality.

Looking back from the lessons of the past 75 years, one thing is certain, when the future arrives, PLDT will be there.



PLDT partners with technology powerhouse Microsoft Network

PLDT's theme for its 75th anniversary is "THINK AHEAD".

As one takes a look at the future, no doubt, the power of the Internet and the world wide web will be at the center of all the action. In a strategic move that will solidify PLDT's position in the Internet arena, the country's premiere telecommunications company joins forces with Microsoft Network to bring to the Philippines, its most popular services, MSN Hotmail, MSN Messenger and more.

The new market entry format in the Philippines leverages MSN's existing investment in people, software and services focusing on MSN Search and its popular communication services MSN Hotmail and MSN Messenger. These new portals will offer channels that are tailored to the individual countries' culture and needs.

> PLDT has entered the arena of content development and multi-media applications, and will continue to vigorously move in this direction in conjunction with our call to THINK AHEAD.

In conjunction with its 75th anniversary, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), the leading telecommunications company in the Philippines, will be MSN's pioneer advertising partner on its new Philippines portal. Claro Carmelo Ramirez, Senior Vice President of PLDT expressed his excitement over MSN's new Philippines portal, "We are pleased to be a pioneer advertising partner of MSN in the Philippines. MSN is known all over the world as one of the most popular web destinations and its services are widely used by many. We are certain that by partnering with MSN in terms of our advertising and marketing strategies, we will stand to gain great brand visibility and be able to communicate our services to our customers in and out of the Philippines."

This partnership represents only the beginning of a strong alliance between MSN and PLDT in the Philippines. " added Ramirez.

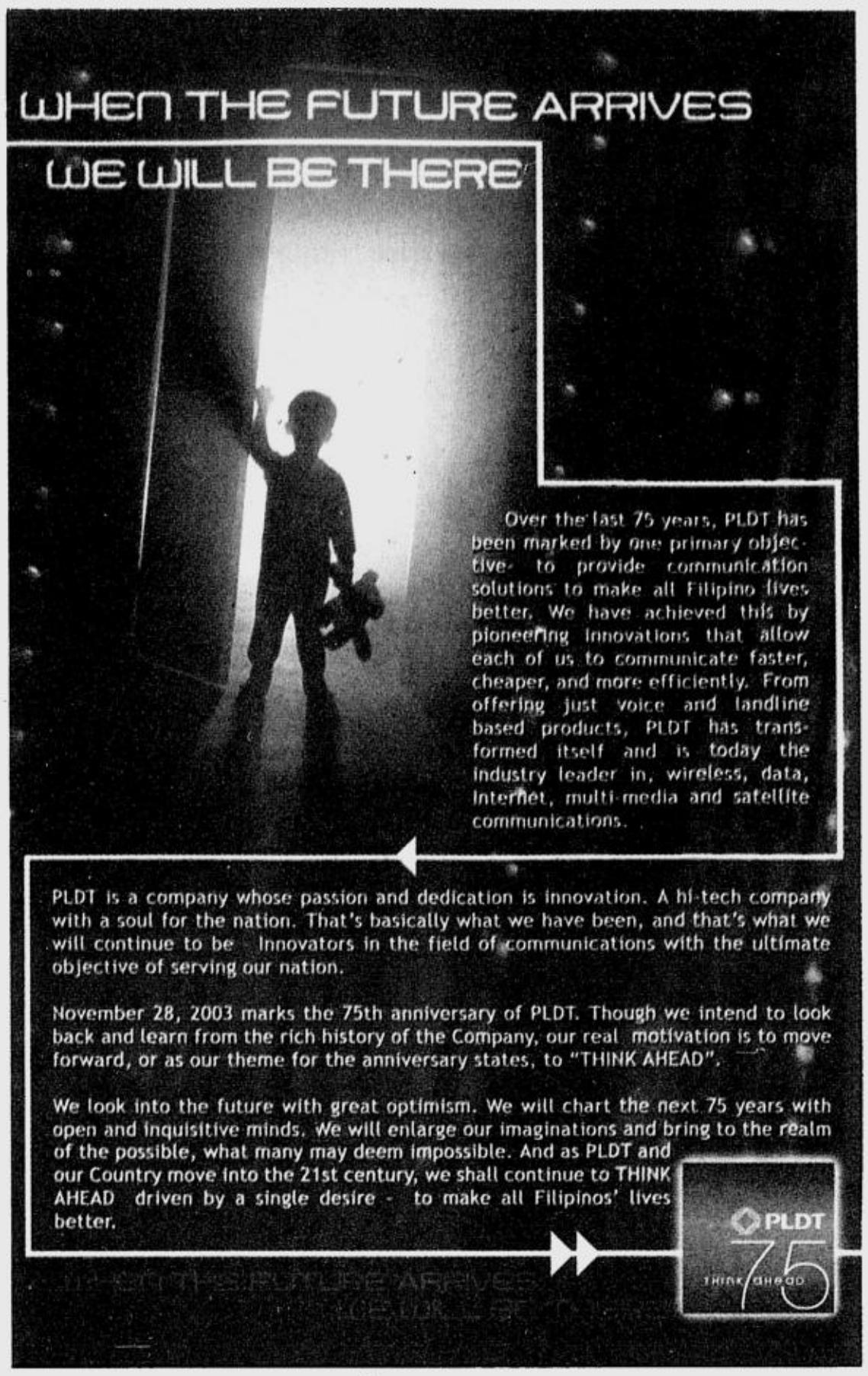
The MSN Philippines portal will feature localized content tailor fit to the Filipino market. ePLDT, the ICT arm of PLDT will handle the content aggregation, development and website management for the local portal.

"This move confirms PLDT's commitment towards delivering telecommunication products and services that is beyond voice," said Ramirez. "We have now entered the arena of content development and multi-media applications, and we will continue to vigorously move in this direction in conjunction with our call to THINK AHEAD."

Ramirez believes that the partnership with Microsoft Network allows PLDT to position itself strongly in the field of ICT. PLDT's dominance in the local telecommunications arena and Microsoft's premiere position in the world of ICT makes for a perfect partnership.

MSN is already the world's most visited web destination with over 350 million unique users. MSN Hotmail, the world's leading free web based email service, and MSN Messenger, the most popular instant messaging platform, today have more than 130 million and 100 million unique users worldwide respectively (Source: MSN Internal IDSS reporting audited by Price Waterhouse Coopers).

"There is no escaping the fact that the future will be upon us. When that happens, PLDT and Microsoft will be there, serving the needs of the Filipino people in every way we can," concluded Ramirez.



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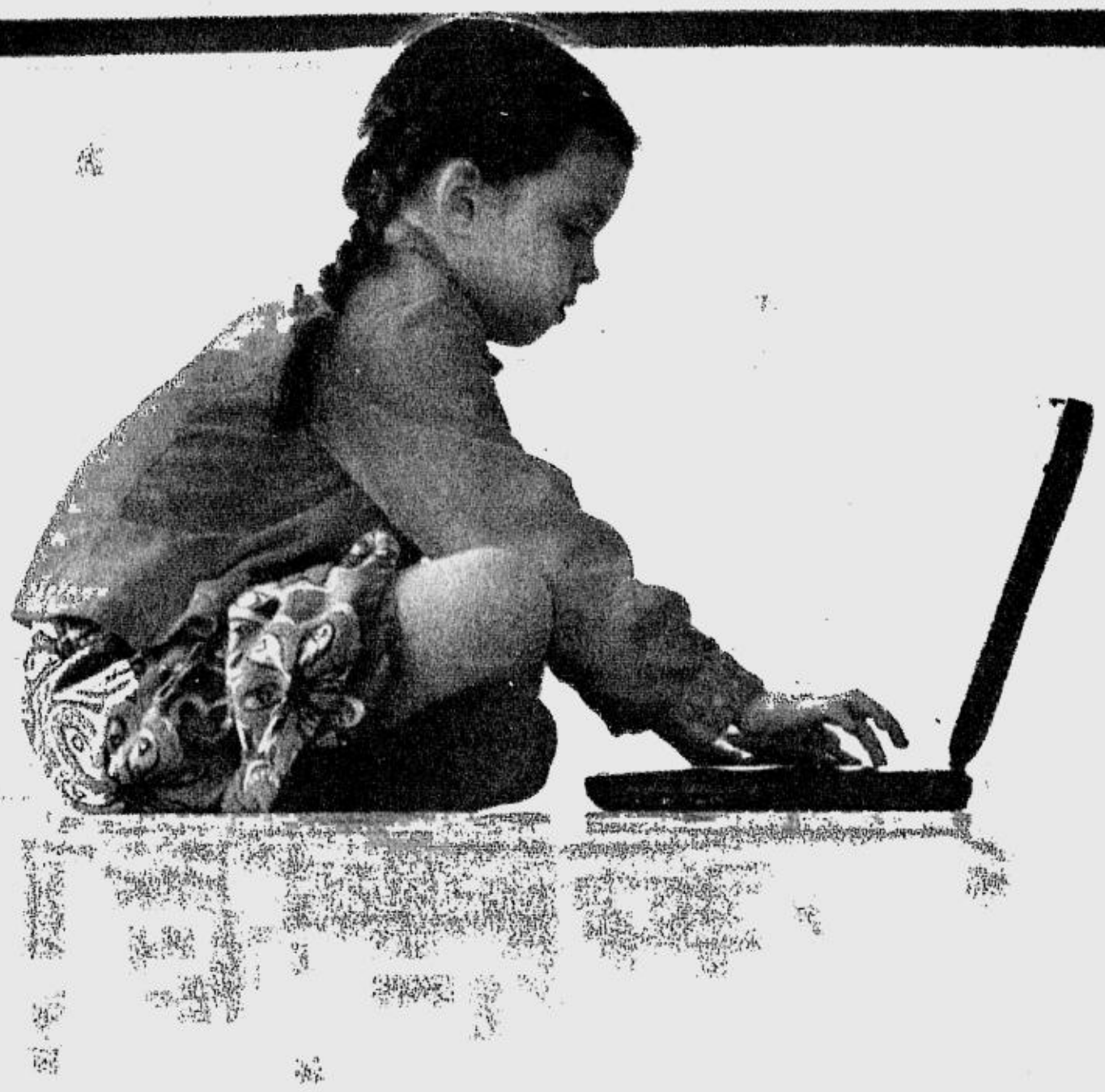

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PLDT 75 THINK AHEAD

Peso plunges to new record low of 55.73 to $1

Story below, COL. 1

'Tukô' interrupts GMA talk in Lucena

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—A mischief-maker boldly interrupted the President yesterday—and still received an amused reaction from the famously

TUKO/ A8

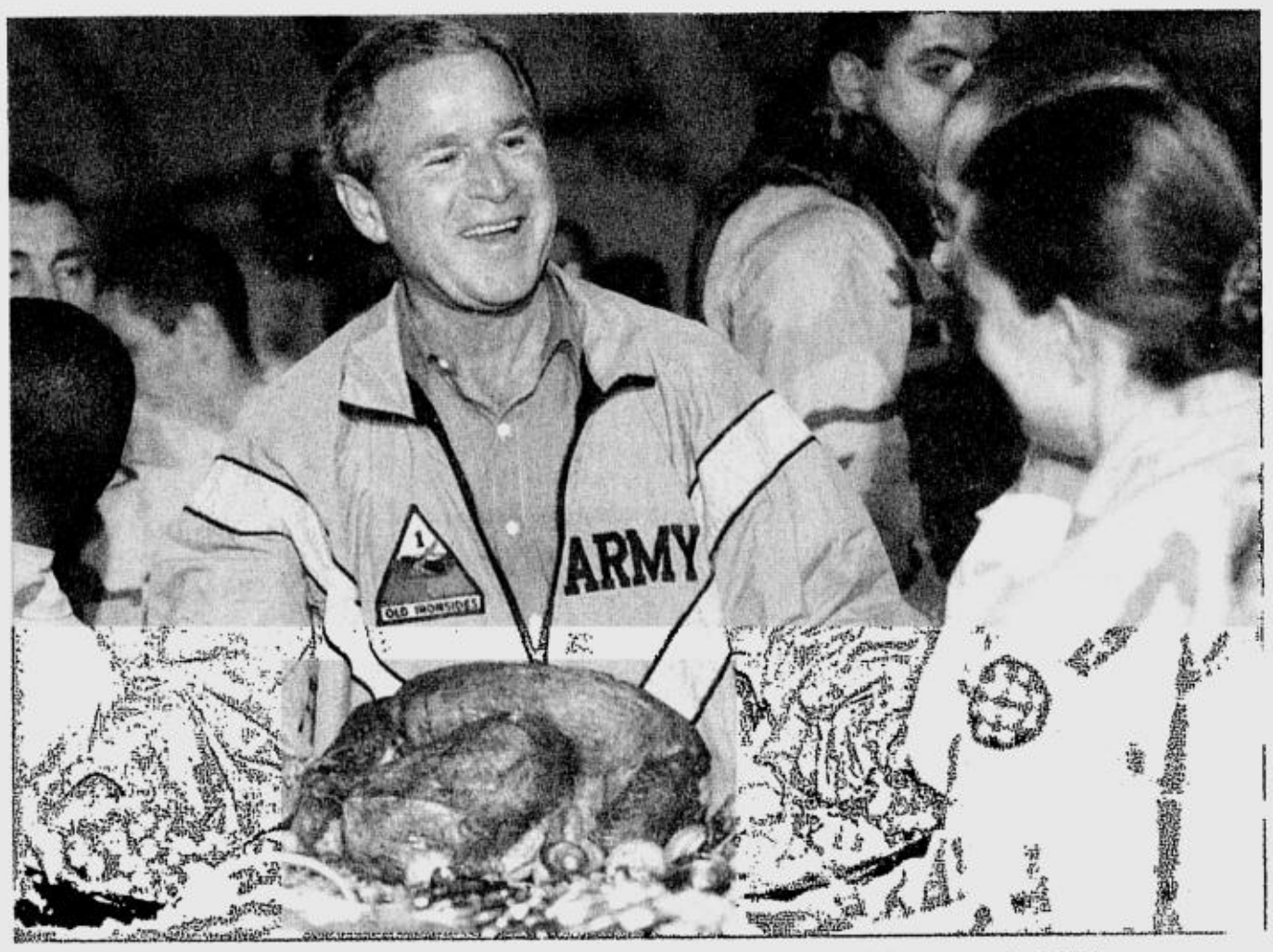
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Stand up to China, Taiwan urges RP — NEWS /A7
- Kidnapped student still alive, says Reyes — NEWS /A3
- Attack wounds vice mayor, kills pal — ACROSS /A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, November 29, 2003 ★★ 110 pages / 15 sections / vol. 18 / no. 354 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Bush sneak visit to Iraq stuns GIs



PRESIDENT Bush serves up turkey to US troops at the Baghdad International Airport during a surprise 2 1/2-hour Thanksgiving Day visit. The American president flew from his ranch in Crawford, Texas, to Baghdad for the top-secret trip that was announced to the press only after he had left Iraq. AP

Top-secret trip dubbed a PR coup

BAGHDAD—President George W. Bush stunned US troops in Iraq on Thursday by turning up at their Thanksgiving dinner after a risky flight into Baghdad Airport, saying he was "just looking for a warm meal."

During his lightning trip amid mounting casualties and political pressure at home, Bush thanked American soldiers for "sacrificing for our freedom and our peace," and assured the Iraqi Governing Council that the United States would stay the course while urging them to work harder to prepare for next year's handover of sovereignty.

In an elaborate plan to ensure his security, Bush slipped away from his Texas ranch on Wednesday night, arrived in Iraq on Thursday and spent 2-½ hours with the troops, becoming the first US president to visit the country.

In a sign of the extraordinary security precautions, television reports said US authorities would have called off the visit had news been leaked in advance.

News of his visit was not released until the presidential jet Air Force One had already left Baghdad, after a missile was fired last weekend at a DHL civilian cargo plane, forcing an emergency landing here.

Bush arrived back in Washington shortly after midnight on Friday to complete a 30-hour round-trip from Texas.

At the heavily fortified airport whose confines he did not leave throughout his stay, Bush joined about 600 troops and several members of the Iraqi Governing Council in a mess hall.

"I was just looking for a warm meal somewhere," Bush told the soldiers,

BUSH/ A22

Palace says GMA leader of 'real world'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Martin P. Marfil and Norman Bordadora

MALACAÑANG yesterday downplayed the results of the latest survey on preferred presidential candidates, saying President Macapagal-Arroyo was the leader with experience in the "real world."

"The real world is one where the leader takes the arrows and struggles with the people to fight crisis and to build a nation," the President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Reacting to the November survey of Pulse Asia Inc. where the President ranked third behind ex-Sen. Raul Roco and action star Fernando Poe Jr., Bunye said Ms Macapagal had "immersed herself in the fountain of the people and shown the way through hard work, sacrifice and leadership by example."

"She has been a serving, performing and teaching President, and will continue to be so despite the obstacles being thrown across her path every day," he said.

But in a statement, the militant labor alliance Kilusang Mayo Uno said that workers have not felt the supposed 4.4-percent growth in the economy in the third quarter and they remained poor, hungry and exploited.

It also said the number of unemployed had risen during Ms Macapagal's term.

"More people go jobless and hungry every day," KMU chair Elmer Labog said.

He added: "Growing economic statistics are not enough indicators of economic progress. Workers need actual economic relief from the daily burden of price hikes, low wages and financial

PALACE / A9

Peso plunges to new record low of 55.73 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

POLITICAL and economic anxieties continued to pummel the local currency and stock market yesterday, sending the peso plunging to a fresh record low and share prices diving to their lowest in seven weeks.

The peso, which has remained volatile since Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho announced his resignation a week ago, weakened for the third straight day and plummeted yesterday to a new record closing low of P55.73 from P55.69 the other day.

Ignoring news of a better-than-expected economic growth in the third quarter, stock prices closed lower for the second straight day with the 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ending down at 1,313.87, its lowest close in seven weeks.

"What's weighing on the market is actually the political uncertainty," BPI Securities senior manager Roberto Cano said. "I think now that some are starting to announce their intention to run in next year's elections, people are watching to see how the political race will shape up."

Currency traders said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had stayed away from the market as indicated by a small turnover of $107.7 million.

The peso opened weak at P55.72 yes-

PESO / A9

POLITICS OF ADDITION
Senate President Franklin Drilon takes his oath as Liberal Party chair before Rep. Butch Abad, LP secretary general, and party stalwart Jovito Salonga. The party will decide on Dec. 5 between Roco and GMA. *(Story on Page A2.)* JESS YUSON

Biazon joins Roco camp; Lito O sees landslide win

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon is joining the camp of Raul Roco because, in his view, the latter is the least divisive among the presidential contenders.

On indefinite leave of absence from the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Biazon yesterday said he would join the Aksyon-Reporma-Promdi coalition of Roco, Renato de Villa and Emilio "Lito" Osmeña when he seeks reelection in 2004.

Biazon said in a phone interview that he met with Roco and De Villa Thursday night and presented to them the five "advocacies," including reforms in the military and police, that he had long been pushing in the Senate.

"And they accepted [the advocacies] and will have these incorporated in the alliance's platform of government," he said.

Speaking with the INQUIRER Thursday morning, Biazon said he would support neither Sen. Panfilo Lacson nor Fernando Poe Jr. as the LDP standard-bearer because each was perceived to be an "extension" of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

He said an electoral contest between an Estrada alter ego and President Macapagal-Arroyo would again be divisive: "We're bringing back Edsa II and Edsa III."

In a phone interview yesterday, Roco welcomed Biazon's support.

He said Biazon will be running under the Aksyon-Reporma-Promdi alliance as a guest candidate, but would not be sworn in as a member of any of the three parties.

"We didn't impose that condition because we're an alliance," Roco said. "In an alliance we have allies. We've agreed that he'll be an official candidate of the alliance."

Roco confirmed that he met with Bia-

BIAZON/ A22

Like Erap, FPJ now butt of nasty jokes

By Christian V. Esguerra

THOSE nasty text jokes, the sort that poked fun at ousted President Joseph Estrada, are back.

But this time, the target is his bosom buddy, the newly declared presidential contender Fernando Poe Jr., aka FPJ or "Da King" of Philippine movies.

The jokes illustrate the actor's supposed "intellectual inadequacy" for the post that he announced he would be seeking in the 2004 elections. If it's any consolation to him, they have yet to touch on his grammar, probably because he is perceived to speak better English than his disgraced friend.

Still, it is unlikely that Poe and his fans

LIKE/ A6

Rizal, Bonifacio, Mabini, Lapu-Lapu are streets of San Francisco

By Cathy Babao-Guballa
Contributor

RIZAL. Bonifacio. Mabini. Lapu-Lapu. The street signs look somewhat out of place in the heart of the South of Market (SoMa) area in San Francisco, California.

SoMa may be the only district in the entire United States where you can find streets named in honor of Filipino heroes. The four streets bound a building called the San Lorenzo Ruiz Center, an apartment complex whose occupants, some 80 percent of them, are Filipino senior citizens.

On one side of the building is the Dimasalang Mural which traces the evolution of the SoMa as a center for Filipino communities and at the same time depicts images of famous Filipinos who have lived in or visited the area.

Community leader MC Canlas likened the area to a "poblacion" or plaza.

"We also refer to it as our 'kabayanan,' the heart and nerve center of a town or municipality. The plaza is the center of inter-village activities such as trade and commerce, fiestas, electoral campaigns, religious activities, and cultural performances. It is where people come for basic health, social and government services. At the same time, it is also a focal point for political demonstrations and mass mobilization," Canlas said.

Canlas, who reluctantly moved to the United States in 1984 in order to fulfill family obligations, has been very active in promoting ethno-tourism in the SoMa area.

Ethno-tourism, he explained, was the practice of touring, rediscovering and exploring one's cultural heritage and history in a manner that enhances ethnic and self-pride, identity and consciousness.

The practice has been an effective means for Filipinos, both residents and visitors to SoMa, to understand the plight of the Filipino in America. When

RIZAL/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/29/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONTPAGE

Compromise on Naia 3 still possible

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has not shut the door to an amicable settlement with the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. Inc. (Piatco).

This after Piatco's biggest foreign shareholder, Fraport AG of Germany, filed a case with the World Bank to recover roughly $500 million it had invested in the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project.

In an open forum at the Philippine Business Conference yesterday, President Macapagal said she was still open to a compromise acceptable to the government as long as this did not sacrifice transparency and integrity.

The President said she would wait for the Supreme Court to decide on just compensation before discussing terms with Piatco.

Piatco and Fraport were partners in the terminal construction. Later they had a falling out with each accusing the other of committing anomalies. Piatco was also accused by the government of overpricing the project.

The President said the government would not be rushed into opening the terminal which was mothballed before it could even welcome its first plane.

Drilon takes a dig at FPJ

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE President Franklin Drilon, the newest member of the Liberal Party, yesterday took a swipe at the presidential candidacy of movie actor Fernando Poe Jr., saying the political campaign in next year's polls should be based on issues and not on personalities.

After taking his oath as LP chair, Drilon lamented that the "game of politics" in the country continues to be a "roulette of personalities instead of a battle of ideas."

"With the declaration of a movie actor that he will run for the presidency, the lines are drawn," Drilon said in his speech. "What choices are now available to our people?"

The Senate President said that choice would be between candidates who have competence and experience on governance and one who is popular.

He was apparently referring to Poe, who has never held public office but has declared early this week that he will stand for election in the May 2004 polls.

The other contenders for the presidency are former Sen. Raul Roco, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Drilon said the party has to "elevate" the standards of the country's politics, noting that "misguided populism has taken center stage and has overshadowed the substance of politics and governance."

In the Philippines today, he noted that the quest for leadership is once again equated with "sheer popularity" and petty bickering, media grandstanding and outright mudslinging which have become the order of the day instead of political debates on principles and beliefs.

The Liberal Party, Drilon said, could push for political reforms such as strengthening the political party system.

Drilon said he would push for the passage of the Electoral Reform Bill not only to regulate campaign contributions and provide state funding to political parties but also to prohibit political opportunism.

Partyless since he bolted the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino in 2000, Drilon assured that LP would be the last party he would join.

He said he joined the party since it is "my kindred soul," as shown by the positions it had taken on several issues. These included the Edsa 2 uprising that ousted Joseph Estrada in 2001, the charter change issue and the impeachment bid against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

With his wife Mila by his side, Drilon took his oath as LP chair before LP President Florencio Abad.

Abad agreed with Drilon's call for an issue-based campaign in next year's election.

"While it is true we cannot avoid personalities being emphasized in the campaign, I think that it is important that those personalities represent ideas," Abad said in a news conference.

He said these personalities should come up with their platform of government as well as solutions to the country's problems like the Marcos hidden wealth and the coco levy controversy.

LP members came in full force for Drilon's induction yesterday. Among those who attended were LP chair emeritus Sen. Jovito Salonga, Manila Mayor Jose Atienza Jr., Reps. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, as well as several congressmen and governors.

As this developed, two solons yesterday challenged Poe to bare his platform and his economic managers and advisers to ease market worries over this candidacy.

Rep. Exequiel Javier (Antique) and Rep. Prospero Nograles (Davao) said investors want a concrete program of action to be spelled out in Poe's platform on such issues as job creation, investment and peace and order.

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Erap factor still a force to reckon with, says solon

By Carlito Pablo

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada may be in jail and facing many problems but the "Erap factor" remains a force to reckon with in the 2004 presidential elections.

Rep. Didagen Dilangalen (Pwersa ng Masa, Maguindanao) said this was because Estrada has retained the loyalty of 20 to 30 percent of the electorate, which is transferable to his chosen candidate, in this case his close friend and former star campaigner-turned-presidential candidate himself, Fernando Poe Jr.

Dilangalen said the so-called Erap factor could easily offset the built-in advantage of an incumbent running for election like President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"An incumbent president is almost assured of 15 percent of the votes because of the resources and machinery at his or her disposal," Dilangalen said.

It will be recalled that Estrada won the 1998 elections by a landslide, garnering at least 10 million votes.

Estrada himself had said he wants Poe to run for president, preferring him over Sen. Panfilo Lacson, also a close associate who served as his police chief during his abbreviated term in office.

And if Rep. Imee Marcos (KBL, Ilocos Norte) is to be believed, Poe also enjoys the backing of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

If this is so, Poe, who is immensely popular, would have both the political and financial muscle to win Malacañang in 2004.

But Cojuangco confidant Rep. Jacinto Paras (Lakas, Negros Oriental) said Marcos had it all wrong when she claimed that Cojuangco was behind Poe's decision to run for president.

Noting that he had talked with Cojuangco, Paras said Danding was "leaning toward GMA (President Macapagal)."

"Danding said that President Macapagal is a formidable candidate," Paras said.

Cojuangco's Nationalist People's Coalition will meet on Dec. 5 to decide whom to support in next year's national elections.

But the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas predicted that Cojuangco will make twin bets in 2004, meaning he will support both Poe and Ms Macapagal.

"That Cojuangco was the key person who convinced FPJ to run is only 50 percent of the truth," Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement. "The other 50 percent is that Danding will also support GMA either in a discreet or explicit manner."

Hicap said Cojuangco is "amenable" to a Macapagal presidency beyond 2004 because of their supposed deal that would allow Cojuangco to retain control of the P130-billion coconut levy fund, which is key to his control of the food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

Business wants special powers for next president

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUSINESSMEN want the country's next president to have "special powers" to help him or her speed up legislative and judicial reforms and spur economic development.

In an interview, former Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair Jose T. Pardo said the PCCI has asked legal experts to look into how the next president could have a more direct handle on problems and more power to initiate reforms that have been stuck in the legislative and judicial back burners.

Pardo cited the difficulties in passing key economic bills and the massive backlog of unresolved cases in the courts as areas where presidential intervention is required.

"Of course, the president's special powers should fall within the ambit of the Constitution," he stressed.

Pardo said the "special powers" would be among the proposals to be included in the planned "road map" for the next president's first 100 days in office to be drawn up by a special panel of top PCCI officials and former Cabinet officials.

Pardo, who will chair the business panel, said the road map would contain what businessmen expect of the next president in the early days of the new administration.

He said the group will ask the leading presidential candidates—who have agreed to present their economic platforms at the PCCI-sponsored Philippine Business Conference—to commit to the road map in their first days in office.

Pardo, finance secretary during the short-lived term of ousted President Joseph Estrada, said he has been approached by movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. to be part of the latter's economic team but he has yet to make up his mind.

"I'll finish this project with the PCCI first before I make any commitment," he said.

Kidnapped Paco student still alive, says anti-kidnap czar

By TJ Burgonio

ANTI-KIDNAPPING czar Angelo Reyes yesterday denied speculations that a 10-year-old girl, snatched last week in front of her school in Paco, Manila, had been killed by her abductors.

"The rumors that she was killed were not true at all. We have not received any reports that she was killed by the kidnappers," said Reyes, chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf).

The girl, the fourth kidnap victim in a fresh wave of kidnappings this month, was rumored this week to have been executed by her kidnappers.

Gunmen, believed to be members of the Waray Group, snatched the girl in front of her school in Paco, Manila on Thursday last week after shooting her nanny and driver, who later died of gunshot wounds in the hospital.

The abduction came two days after Coca-Cola executive Betti Chua Sy was seized in Quezon City last week on her way to work. She was later found dead a day later along President Diosdado Macapagal boulevard in Parañaque City.

Actaf operations

As this developed, Reyes disclosed that a platoon of soldiers trained in close-quarter combat has been placed under the control of the military's Anti-Crime Task Force (Actaf) for deployment in Naktaf's anti-kidnapping operations.

"This is the initial batch, and should the need arises, we will have an additional personnel from the Armed Forces," he said, noting that the soldiers were pulled out from the Army's 80th Infantry Battalion based in Tanay, Rizal.

Col. Francis Lanuza, Actaf chief and Naktaf executive director, said the platoon would be placed on standby for the Naktaf's anti-kidnapping operations.

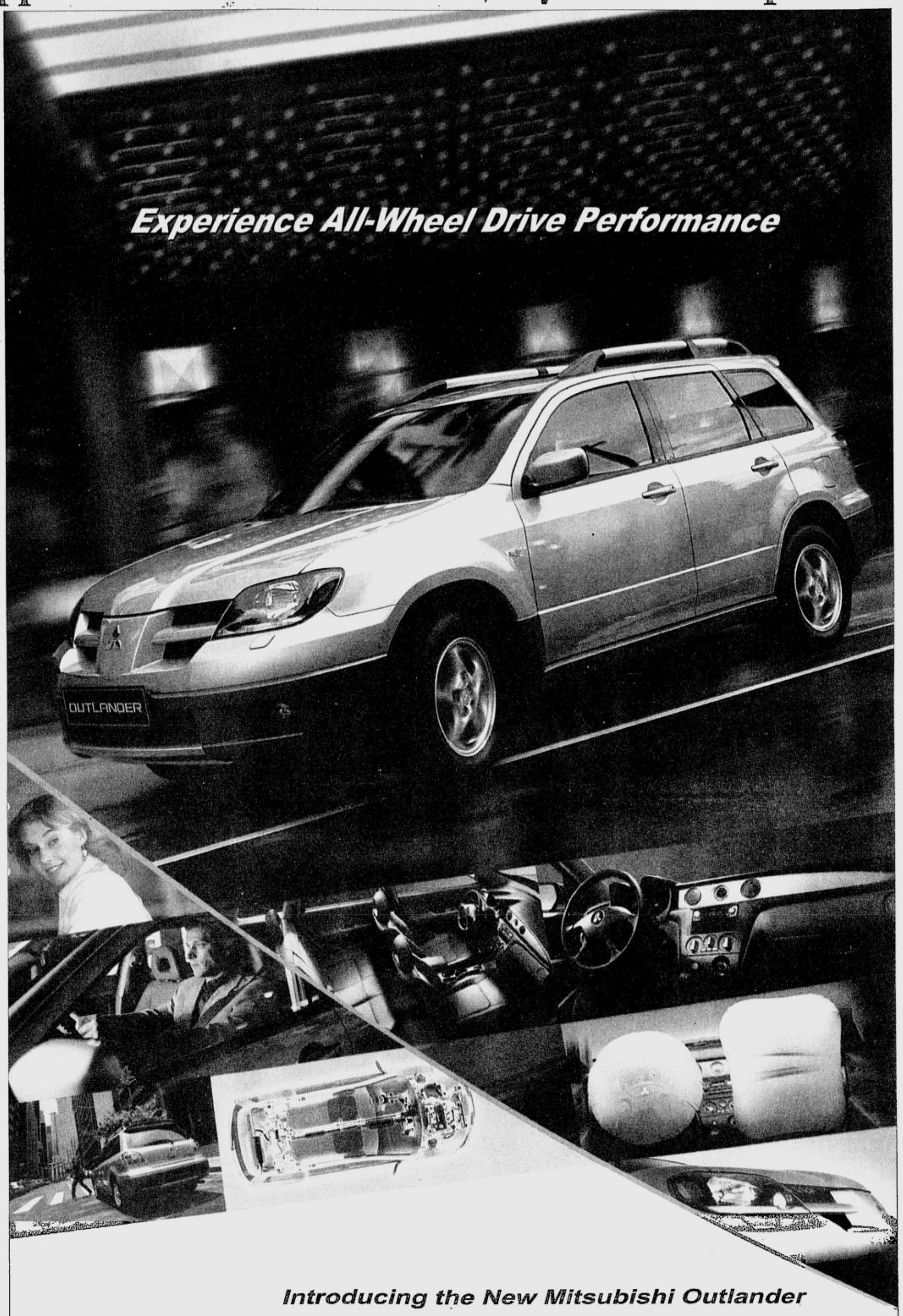
The platoon of heavily armed, camouflaged soldiers displayed their skills in a simulated operation to rescue a victim from the safehouse of a five-man kidnap group inside the former Logistics Command headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Backed by an armored personnel carrier and a team of snipers, the troops swiftly swooped down on a two-story, rundown building, blasted the door with explosives and moved in, opening fire at the kidnappers on sight.

After a few minutes of gunfire, they took down the five armed kidnappers and rescued the male victim alive. After clearing the area of booby traps and explosives, the troops left the scene.

Anti-kidnapping special units of the Actaf and the revived National Capital Region Command have been tapped by the Naktaf in the wake of the rash of kidnappings of Chinese-Filipino nationals in Metro Manila.

Asked if President Macapagal-Arroyo had set a deadline for the neutralization of the five remaining kidnap-for-ransom gangs, Reyes said: "The order of the President was to do it fast, to do it quick. So we are working double-time."



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THANKS TO SENATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN M. DRILON'S SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

***516 classrooms** were constructed in less than 18 months under **Senate President Franklin M. Drilon's** school building program, benefiting tens of thousands of schoolchildren.*

The Senate President has allocated P150 million of his public works entitlement fund to a countrywide school building program in cooperation with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) which has successfully conducted a nationwide **"Operation Barrio Schools Program"** over the past many years.

*Under the **"FFCCCII-Senate President Franklin M. Drilon School Building Project," 516 classrooms have already been constructed,** out of a target of 860 classrooms or 430 school buildings. This completes 60 percent of the goal.*

The project is transparent and graft-free. Under the partnership, one classroom is built at a cost of P175,000 or P350,000 for a standard two-classroom schoolhouse. **This is one-half the cost of the same type of schoolhouse if built by the government or the Department of Public Works and Highways.**

*Measuring 7x14 square meters, the duplex-type school building is a concrete structure with steel beams and GI roof. **Now thousands of schoolchildren will no longer have to study under the mango tree.***

Impressed with the progress of his partnership with FFCCCII, Drilon has pledged to give another P70 million to the second phase of the same project. **The amount would mean more classrooms and more school children to be benefited.**

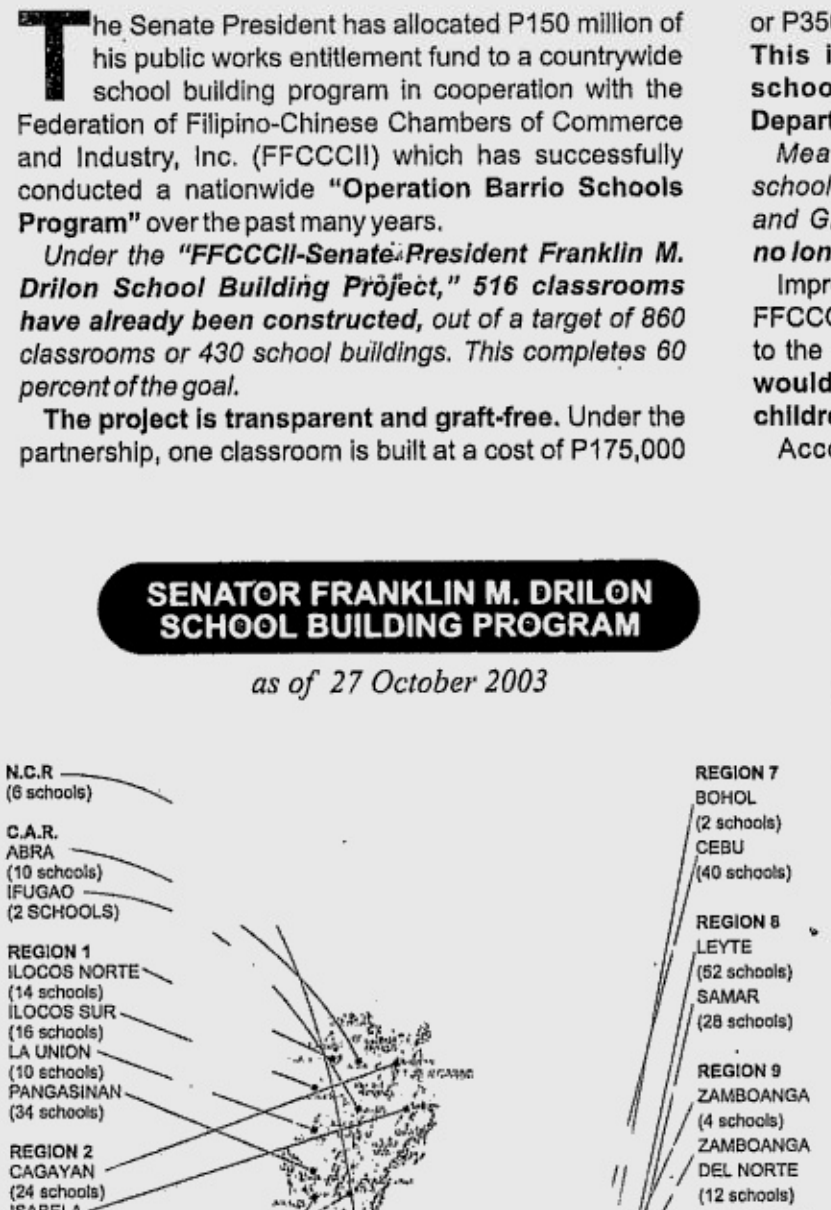
According to the Department of Education, the classroom backlog in 2001 stood at 8,443. The classroom requirement for school year 2002-03 totaled 10,181, for which P2 billion was included in the 2002 national budget for the school building program.

The public works entitlement appropriation, sometimes called the "pork barrel" system, has been criticized for being allegedly graft-ridden. Actually, it is a means to enable representatives of the people in Congress to have a say in the allocation of public revenue on behalf of their constituents.

Senate President Drilon has allocated his public works entitlement or "pork barrel" in a transparent, effective and graft-free manner through his school building project.

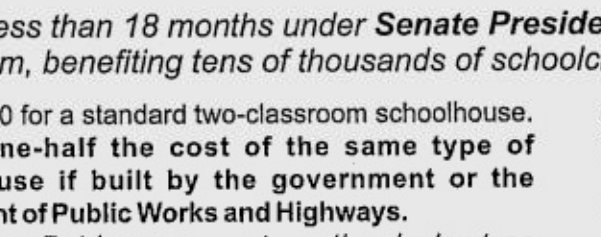
SENATOR FRANKLIN M. DRILON SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAM

as of 27 October 2003



The Drilon-FFCCCII project

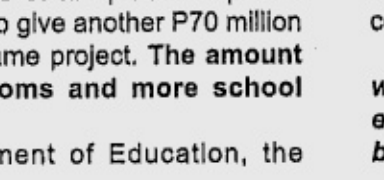
Building schoolhouses, eradicating corruption



ALL FOR ONE. Senate President Franklin Drilon meets with former FFCCCII president John K.C. Ng, then DPWH and now Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to finalize the school building project.

When the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) embarked on a noble undertaking of constructing school buildings in 1960, the intention was not to provide an all-out solution to the acute shortage of classrooms in the country. It was but another facet of the multi-faceted social and civic activities of the federation.

The FFCCCII under its "Operation Barrio Schools" program built thousands of schoolhouses, mostly in depressed and far-flung areas with a dearth of classrooms.



FRUITS OF HIS LABOR. Senator Drilon formally opens a finished school building in a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The program got a needed boost when in May last year, Senate *President Franklin M. Drilon* signed a memorandum of agreement with the federation allocating P150 million of his public works entitlement that formally jumpstarted the "FFCCCII-Senate President Franklin M. Drilon School Building Project."

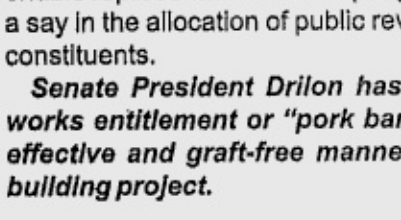
With this program, Drilon initiated a novel, graft-free and cost-effective way of building infrastructure projects using pork barrel funds.

"The much-maligned pork barrel funds can be put to better use if allotted to more useful and tangible things that would benefit generations of our countrymen and in the process remove the stigma attached to pork barrel funds," he said.

The Senate Chief also took note of the present scenario where students hold classes inside dilapidated and make-do classrooms that put school children in danger. In far-flung areas, the situation is more depressing with classes actually held under trees or in a space convertible to other uses.

The Drilon scheme virtually eliminates the opportunities for corruption. "For one, the FFCCCII does not have to bid for the project. Moreover, it does not have to beg for funds because the DPWH and the Department of Budget and Management will ensure the timely release of the funds. Thus, there would be no kickbacks to go around because the projects and the funds are already assured," he said.

It is not difficult to figure out how the FFCCCII can afford to construct school buildings at half the cost of what it takes the government.

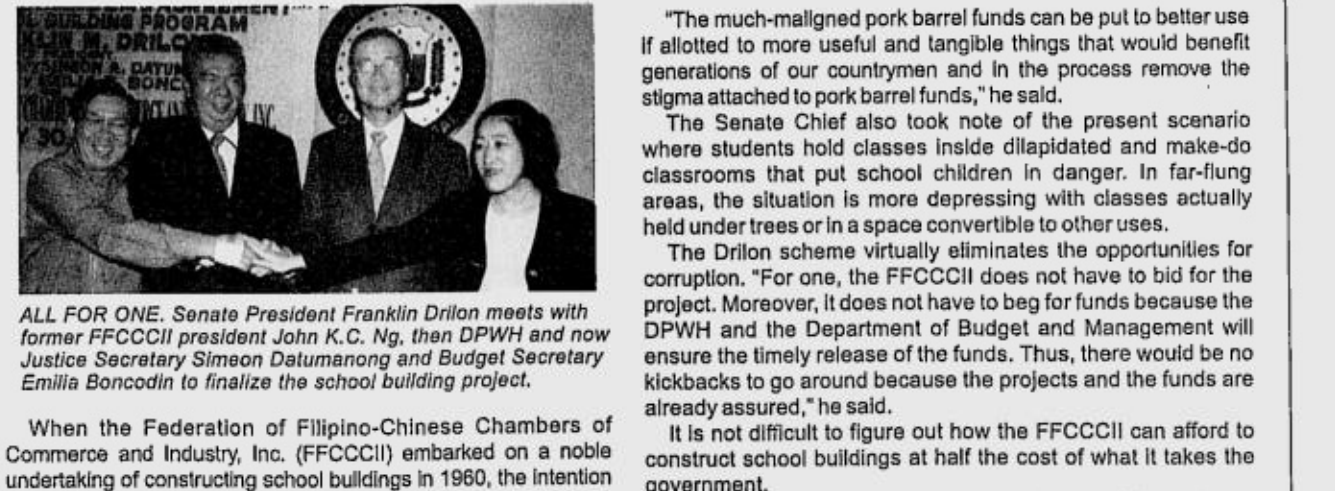


TURNOVER. Senate President Drilon and FFCCCII incumbent president Robin Sy signthe turnover of schools in Tarlac City with former FFCCCII president John K.C. Ng.

First, unlike private contractors who live by their profits, the federation is a non-profit entity engaged in civic and charitable work.

Secondly, there are no kickbacks to go around because the projects and the funds are already assured. Lastly, the FFCCCII has an extensive network of members nationwide who are in the construction business, ensuring lower cost of materials.

After two years of operation, the first phase of the program with an allocation of P150 million, has completed 60 percent of its target number of classrooms. A total of 516 classrooms are now built all over the country with 344 classrooms more soon to rise.



SETTING THE BAR HIGH. The 'Drilon Classrooms' exemplify quality and affordability by which other classroom projects would be judged.

Advt.

GMA vows more teeth vs crime

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday promised, in a big business gathering, she would put more teeth into her administration's fight against kidnap-for-ransom and other heinous crimes.

She endorsed the implementation of a national identification card and approved the allocation of P300 million reward money for kidnappers.

But the President asserted that summary executions or rub-outs on suspected criminals have no room in her administration's anti-crime campaign.

"But let me speak about a reform that we all recognize must be done. We speak about crime. We can fight crime by rub-outs but the same people that will do the rub-out on the kidnappers will be the same people that will do a rub-out on a Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, will be the same people that will do a rub-out on their political enemies," she said, eliciting applause from businessmen, diplomats and legislators who attended the 29th Philippine Business Conference and Exhibition at the Manila Hotel.

Dacer, a public relations practitioner who was abducted and found dead with his driver, during the administration of former President Joseph Estrada.

"And therefore, it is going to be solved not by this double-edged sword but rather by immediate medium-term and long-term reforms," she said.

The President said that of more than 500 kidnapping cases in the last five years, 36 have resulted in convictions mostly during her administration.

But she said she wants this crime solved in a "more effective" way, which was why she appointed former Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes as her anti-kidnapping czar.

The President said that within one month of his appointment, Reyes targeted 22 kidnap-for-ransom cases, including six most active kidnap-for-ransom groups.

His accomplishments, she noted, included the kidnappers of Coca-cola executive Betti Chua Sy a day after she was found dead, and the killing of a most notorious kidnap-for-ransom gang leader.

But to intensify the anti-kidnapping drive, the President said Reyes had been conducting "seminars" with selected Chinese organizations and communities designed to "harden potential targets of kidnapping."

She said prominent and private schools in Manila and Quezon City were also invited to participate in the "preemptive" anti-kidnap strategy.

She said she has authorized the setting up of additional police outposts or checkpoints and doubling up of police assistance centers in kidnap-prone areas.

"Mobile and fixed checkpoints shall be conducted, choke points going to Metro Manila will be watched," she said.

She said heavily tinted vehicles would be checked and armed or uniformed men in civilian vehicles would be challenged.

"Vehicles with questionable plate numbers will be questioned; special plates are not exempt from inspection," she said.

The President said members of kidnap-for-ransom gangs would be included in the government's most-wanted-persons list, their pictures published in newspapers and posted in public places.

PNP wants P1B more

By Michael Ubac

THE PHILIPPINE National Police is asking for additional P1 billion budget to hire 10,000 more policemen to fight rising incidents of criminality in the country.

During the budget hearing in the Senate yesterday, Interior Secretary Joey Lina said the additional money would increase police visibility in the streets to ward off petty and organized crimes.

"But it's a question of where to get the funds. That's the problem, how to raise the funds," said Lina.

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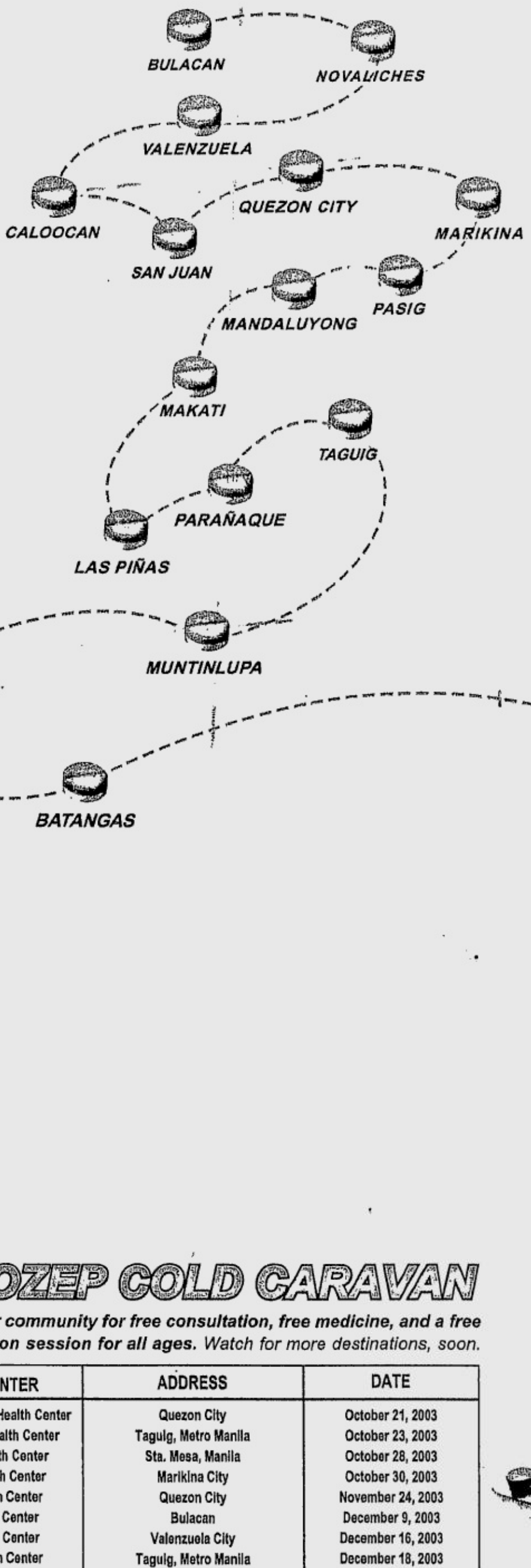

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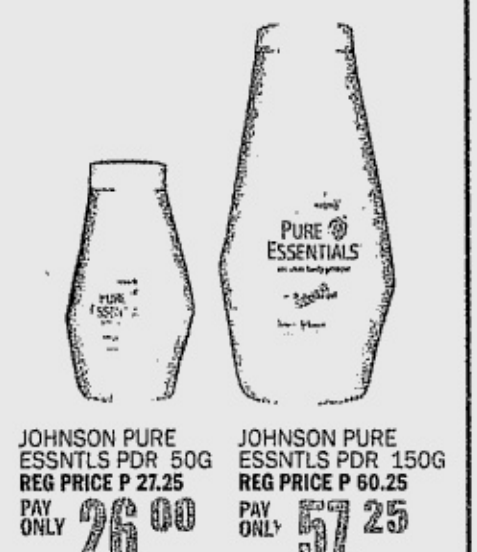

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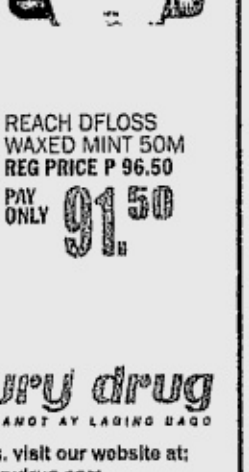

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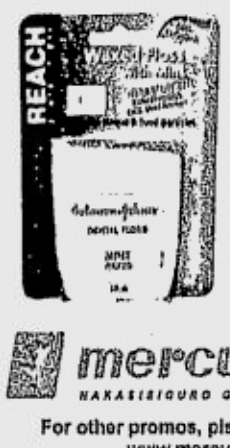

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Like Erap, FPJ now butt of nasty jokes

From page A1

and supporters are amused.

One joke tells of the result of a doctor's examination of Da King's brain: "In the left side, there was nothing right, and in the right side, there was nothing left."

Another is a mock conversation among Estrada, Poe and US President George W. Bush:

"So what are the pollutants in your country?" Bush asks the two friends.

"We have a lot: *sisig, kilawin, pla-pla, chicharon* and *mani*," Poe responds with pride, referring to the favored *pulutan* (bar chow) hereabouts.

Butts in Estrada: "*Nakana mo,* FPJ. *Yoon din ang sasabihin ko kay* Bush (You got it, my friend. That's also what I was going to tell him)."

And more:

Curious about the crime scene, Bush asks FPJ: "How is your parole system over there?"

FPJ: "Oh, we hang them every Christmas."

Estrada: "*Pare, tama. Ganun din ang sagot ko* (You got it again! That's also my answer)."

Like vitamins

But insulting Poe will actually result in plus points for the man, according to his spokesperson Sen. Vicente Sotto III.

"Don't they know that the more they hit him, the more he will be popular?" Sotto yesterday told the INQUIRER. "Criticisms of his alleged lack of qualifications are earning him more sympathy from the public."

Sotto also said "the non-stop sniping" at Poe would further boost his ratings. Furthermore, he said, Poe was taking the negative comments "like vitamins that will make him strong."

Sotto said Poe himself would not engage in black propaganda or name-calling during his campaign: "Expect him to be a gentleman at all times."

"We are not bothered by the taunts politicians are throwing at him," Sotto said.

He added: "We view these insults as the last hurrah of the defeated. Politicians who are ganging up on him are acting like goons, like the Japanese soldiers we see in FPJ movies. They are helping his candidacy by making him appear as the oppressed underdog."

Coffee talk

From mobile phones, FPJ jokes have also spilled into coffee talk.

The common banter is that Roco has agreed to be Poe's running mate. But it's Bembol Roco, the actor, and not Raul Roco, the former senator and education secretary whom the latest survey has shown to be the front-runner in the presidential race.

But more than the nasty humor, the FPJ jokes appear to reflect a widespread uneasiness over the candidacy of the certified neophyte in public service.

For example, his declaration Wednesday that he would seek the presidency plunged the peso to an all-time low of 55.85 to the US dollar the next day, and pulled share prices down nearly 2 percent.

On Thursday night TV, the show "Debate" posed this question: "Is the candidacy of FPJ in 2004 good news or bad news?"

The results of the non-scientific survey: good news, 21 percent of the votes; bad news, 78.50 percent. *With a report from Marinel R. Cruz*

BOSOM buddies Fernando Poe Jr. and Joseph Estrada have many things in common. Now they're objects of nasty text jokes which, Sen. Tito Sotto warns, will only make Poe stronger and even more popular. FILE PHOTO

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NOTICE to the general public and WARNING to illegal manufacturers and dealers

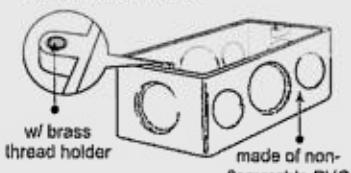
It has come to our attention that several unscrupulous and unauthorized parties have been imitating ATLANTA products, more specifically the **Improved Utility Box and Improved Junction Box** covered by existing patents duly issued by the BUREAU OF PATENTS, TRADEMARKS AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER (now known as the INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE) to **ATLANTA INDUSTRIES, INC.:**

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that ATLANTA products' main features are the brass thread holder and the non-flammable PVC materials for the utility and junction boxes. The irresponsible imitators, however, are using PP materials which are highly flammable and other sub-standard substitute materials with utter disregard for the public safety. These sub-standard substitute materials often cause fires and other accidents.

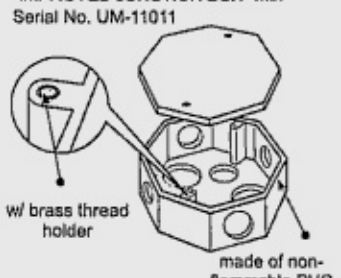
Let this be a **WARNING** therefore, to the illegal manufacturers who imitate ATLANTA products, as well as dealers who sell these imitations that appropriate CRIMINAL and CIVIL suits will be instituted and vigorously pursued against them.

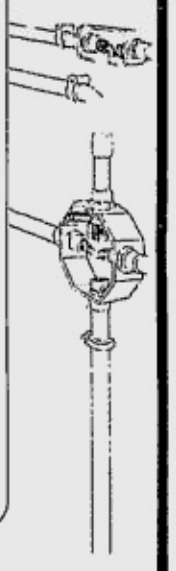
If you know of persons or companies who are manufacturing and selling imitation and look alike products covered by the above patents, please contact our company at 723-0781 to 88 or our lawyers, SIOSON, SIOSON & ASSOCIATES at (632) 845-0870, BALIGOD & ASSOCIATES at 723-0781 to 88. *All telephone calls will be treated with strict confidence.*

1. Letters of Patent No. 7033 dated August 3, 1990 for a Utility Model titled "IMPROVED UTILITY BOX" with Serial No. UM-11012



2. Letters of Patent No. 8201 dated July 6, 1996 for a Utility Model titled "IMPROVED JUNCTION BOX" with Serial No. UM-11011





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Stand up to China, Taiwan urges RP

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwan's president has urged the Philippines to stand up to China and has criticized Manila's foreign secretary for publicly ruling out visits by the Taiwanese vice president and foreign minister.

The strong words came after Philippines Foreign Secretary Blas Ople who said Monday that his government's official relations with China would not allow it to welcome high-ranking Taiwanese officials.

Beijing says that self-ruled Taiwan belongs to China, and the Communist government tries to block the democratic island from having relations with other countries.

But Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian said Thursday that Ople's statements were based on "false rumors" and that Vice President Annette Lu and Foreign Minister Eugene Chien had no plans to visit the Philippines.

"This is not a friendly action," Chen said about Ople's remarks in a meeting with Manuel Villar, the chairman of the Philippines Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Ople said that his country's One-China policy—which doesn't officially recognize Taiwan's government—would not allow Manila to welcome the Taiwanese officials.

But Chen said that the Philippines should act like a sovereign nation and stand up to China.

"The Philippines [is] a sovereign and independent nation, and should not use political thinking to handle trade relations with Taiwan ... under pressure from China," Chen said.

He unfavorably compared the Philippines to the United States, saying Washington also recognizes China but still allows him to stop over on his foreign trips and even receive awards. *AP*

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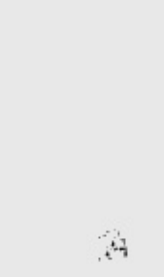
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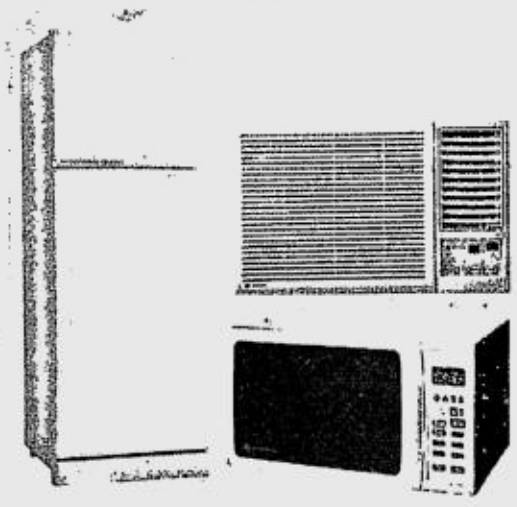


Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3728, Series of 2003

Rizal, Bonifacio, Mabini, Lapu-Lapu are streets of San Francisco

From page A1

Canlas took us around the SoMa neighborhood one afternoon, we deepened our understanding of the struggle of many Filipinos who have chosen to live in America, to find their voice and retain their Filipino identity.

It also built in us a sense of pride in what it meant to be a Filipino in a foreign land. To be able to hold one's head high, to keep one's dignity, has been the struggle of many Filipinos who opted to build a life in the United States.

"I didn't want to work in America or live in America. I saw myself as working for the Filipino people," says Canlas.

In Manila, Canlas was a university professor, academic historian and political activist but for the last 17 years, he has worked as community leader, youth worker, newspaper columnist and service provider to the SoMa area which he calls home.

His work and involvement in the Filipino community in San Francisco has helped awaken the spirit of solidarity and strength among the Pinoys who live in the SoMa area.

Centers of gravity

Canlas, who has traveled extensively throughout Asia, Europe and the United States, observed that overseas Filipinos would establish their own centers of gravity, whether in train stations, parks or churches.

"Of all the poblaciones outside the Philippines, South of Market in San Francisco is perhaps the closest in layout and character to the plaza complex in the towns and cities of the Philippines. SoMa has been the home of Filipinos in San Francisco since the 1920s, and it functions as a town plaza, poblacion and *kabayanan* for the Filipino community in the Bay Area," Canlas said.

Canlas authored "SoMa Pilipinas," published by Arkipelago Books last year, which outlines the rich history of the area and how it is an integral part of Filipino American history in San Francisco.

Over an area that covers roughly 12 blocks, one finds numerous landmarks that would make the Pinoy heart warm with pride. On one end of Mission Street is St. Patrick's Church, a Roman Catholic church where nine of 10 parishioners are Filipino. It is also the center of the Filipino ministry of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco.

First stopover

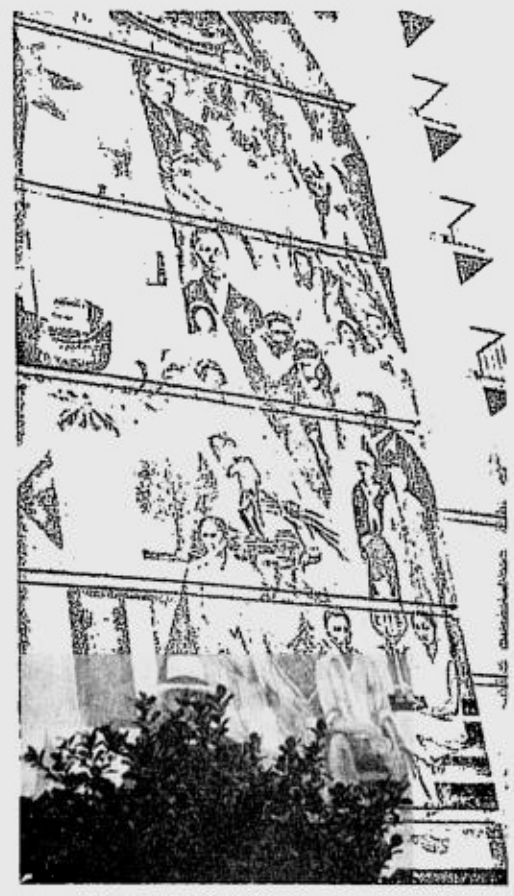
Walk further down and you will find numerous apartment buildings where the occupants are mostly Filipinos. SoMa, which Canlas says has traditionally been the first stopover point of new immigrants into San Francisco, has blocks and blocks of apartments filled with mostly low-income families, seniors and immigrants.

Go down two blocks toward Harrison Street and there you will find the Filipino Education Center—once the only Tagalog bilingual school in the USA—but which is now used primarily as an after-school activities center where the GALING BATA (Gabay-Lingap Bantay Bata) program for the Filipino children who study at the Bessie Carmichael Elementary School is run.

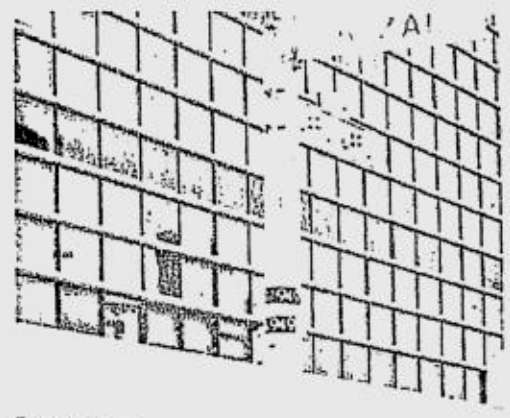
A few blocks south and back toward Mission street is the Mint Mall and Hall, a Filipino-owned building that serves as the residence of more than 500 Filipinos and is home to Arkipelago Books. Nearby is Bindlestiff Studios, a mini-theater studio for Filipino-American talents.

At the gateway to Mission street also stands Bayanihan House (formerly the Delta Hotel), which has been rehabilitated as housing for Filipino seniors.

Canlas said that the first level of Bayanihan House will be the future site of the Bayanihan Community Center, a multi-purpose center for family and community activities.



THE DIMASALANG Mural graces one side of an apartment complex called the San Lorenzo Ruiz Center in SoMa.



FIL-AM MC Canlas stands at the corner of Rizal and Lapu Lapu streets.

Cultural center

Canlas and other Filipinos who have worked long and hard for all these landmarks are most excited about the construction of the Filipino Cultural Center, which will be part of the largest development in San Francisco—the Bloomingdale Hotel, located a block away from St. Patrick's Church, also on Mission street. Though there has been a general decline in the population of Filipinos who reside in the city and county of San Francisco, Canlas says that between 1990 and 2000 there was a 36-percent growth in the Filipino population in the SoMa area. "We may be (fewer) in number here as opposed to Daly City, but it is roughly a 3,000 strong population rich in culture and history," he says.

And in mid-December, Canlas and his group of crusaders plan to light up the whole of Mission street with "parol" (Christmas lanterns) all the way from the Bayanihan Center to St. Patrick's Church.

IKAW AT ANG SSS

Questions & Answers on Social Security

The Importance of the SSS Certificate of Membership For Employer-Members

What is the SSS Certificate of Membership for Employer-Members?

The Certificate of Membership is a document issued to employer members as proof of their compliance with the registration requirement as provided under the Social Security Law. The certificate contains information about the employer's name, employer Social Security ID number and date of coverage.

How does an employer register his company with the SSS?

To register, the employer must fill out in two copies SS Forms R-1 (Employer Registration) and R-1A (Employment Report) and submit the accomplished forms with the needed supporting documents. These forms are available at all SSS branches.

What are the requirements for registration?

The accomplished SS Forms R-1 (Employer Registration) and R-1A (Employment Report) must be submitted with supporting documents based on the company's legal personality. The original copies must be presented to the SSS for authentication purposes.

Partnership - Articles of Partnership
Corporation - Articles of Incorporation
Cooperative - Certificate of Registration issued by Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
Non-stock/Non-profit Corporation - SEC Registration Certificate of Affiliation
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After obtaining the certificate of membership, what must the employer do with it?

The employer must frame and display the Certificate of Membership in a place most convenient for public notice in their respective offices, factories, stores, compounds, establishments, or any other places of business or occupation, as the case may be.

The certificate should be enclosed in a glass frame or similar protective device.

What are the advantages of registering one's business or company with the SSS?

In registering one's business or company with the SSS, the employer assures his employees of social security protection and promotes industrial peace in the workplace. Registration with the SSS ensures peace of mind to the employees knowing that their employer is looking after their welfare and that they are adequately protected in times of contingencies. More importantly, the employer is abiding with the SS Law.

What happens if an employer fails to register his company with the SSS?

Under Sec. 28 (e) of RA 8282 or the Social Security Act of 1997, an employer who fails or refuses to register employees or himself, in case of the covered self-employed shall be punished by a fine of not less than Five thousand pesos (P5,000) nor more than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000), and imprisonment for not less than six (6) years and one (1) day nor more than twelve (12) years.

To apply for SSS clearance, visit the SSS office nearest you. For more information call 924-3465 or 435-9835 or e-mail at member_relations@sss.gov.ph.

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SSS 2003-01

'Tuko' interrupts GMA talk in Lucena

From page A1

short-tempered chief executive.

The lucky culprit? A "gecko" *(tukô)* lizard, making its home on the ceiling of the covered gymnasium of the Sacred Heart College in this city.

Just as President Macapagal-Arroyo was to deliver the "good news" about the economy to some 3,000 students and teachers late Thursday afternoon, a series of "tu-kô" sounds resonated from behind the stage.

As boisterous laughter started to fill the gym, the President, who was already at the rostrum, stopped. "What's that? Tukô?" Ms Macapagal-Arroyo, wearing a wide smile, asked her equally amused companions seated behind her, including Interior Secretary Joey Lina, Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo, Quezon Representatives Rafael Nantes and Lynnete Punzalan and school officials.

After some 30 seconds when the commotion had died down, Ms Macapagal told her audience she was used to hearing the same sounds in her house in La Vista, Quezon City, because there was a hilly portion behind it.

One student had a "politically naughty" reaction. "Politicians have been associated with this creature, especially for those who stubbornly cling to power as in (the saying) *'kapit-tukô,'*" the student told the INQUIRER.

But Asian and Philippine folklore looks on the gecko differently. It is said that a gecko's sounds could mean "good luck and prosperity." In different parts of the world, gecko lizards in the house are considered good luck.

The "tukô" is often jocularly described as the most pious of lizards, because it usually comes out when dusk sets in and punctuates the praying of the Angelus.

During the open forum, three selected college students tossed easy questions to the President, ranging from perceived graft and corruption in her government, the brain drain and state educational scholarships, which the President answered easily.

Ms Macapagal also highlighted the third-quarter growth of the country's gross domestic product, up by 4.4 percent, and the gross national product, up by 5.9 percent.

Peso plunges ... Palace says GMA leader of 'real world'

From page A1

terday, hit an intra-day low of P55.74 before slightly recovering at the close of trading, which the market described as "relatively quiet and uneventful" compared to Wednesday's frenzied buying of dollars on expectations the peso would plumb new depths.

On Wednesday, the peso sank to a historic low of P55.85, eclipsing the P55.75 record low registered on Jan. 17, 2001 at the height of Edsa People Power II, a day after popular actor Fernando Poe Jr. announced his presidential bid.

FPJ factor

Many businessmen believe Poe, a high school dropout who has no political experience, is not capable of handling the presidency.

Poe's close ties with deposed President Joseph Estrada, also an actor, has also stoked fears of a repeat of Estrada's ill-fated term, which was cut short by a mass revolt following charges of graft in 2001.

But the opposition blamed Malacañang for the peso slide, saying it had "stage-managed" the free-fall of the currency and then pointed the finger at Poe's candidacy.

Malacañang, however, denied that it was pinning the blame for the peso's continued fall on Poe's decision to run in next year's elections.

In an interview with dzMM radio, Press Secretary Milton Alingod said a lot of negative factors contributed to the peso's fall such as the Oakwood mutiny and the Naia tower incident. He said businessmen react to a lot of factors and not just one reason.

A Treasury official said the peso would continue to hover at the P55.70 level next week but with a bias to further depreciation. "The market is looking at the P56 level, particularly once politicians file their candidacies on Dec.15," the official added.

The peso has shed 3.8 percent of its value since the start of the year, making it the biggest loser among Asian currencies.

Bare platforms

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura urged anew presidential candidates to announce their economic platforms to calm down market jitters.

He also brushed off allegations that the BSP had deliberately allowed the peso to fall to discredit Poe, whose announcement on Wednesday to stand in next year's elections was largely blamed for the currency's tailspin.

Recognized as one of the world's best central bankers, Buenaventura took exception to such allegations, saying he would never allow himself to be used as a political tool.

An appointee of Estrada, the BSP chief has been well-regarded even by the current administration.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that there had been slight corporate demand from the oil and power companies.

"The market has remained cautious given the political developments. But we have been seeing some inflow from OFWs as well as portfolio investors," said Tetangco.

Overseas workers are expected to send home $7.7 billion this year, of which $5.39 billion had been remitted as of September.

Moody's warning

Former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo yesterday blamed the peso's weakness on the warning of Moody's Investors Service that it may downgrade the country's credit rating due to political uncertainties.

"I believe it is more of Moody's [warning] and the regional weakness rather than FPJ as the reason for the peso's drop," said Pardo, who is being tapped by FPJ as one of his economic advisers.

Buenaventura said there was no need yet for the BSP to raise its overnight policy rates or banks' reserve requirement to ease pressure on the peso. "There is no need to do anything yet," said the BSP chief.

Shares ended marginally lower Friday as political concerns continued to weigh on market sentiment ahead of next year's elections, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 5.55 points, or 0.4 percent, at 1,313.87, its lowest close in seven weeks. The index lost 1.9 percent Thursday.

Blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the market decline and accounted for a fourth of total turnover. PLDT lost P5 to P755.

Despite apprehensions linked to next year's polls, some bargain hunters still nibbled on select stocks, given favorable corporate earnings and growth prospects.

Traders said there was strong support at the 1,300 psychological level, and this signals the market could return to its upward trend soon.

"The reaction yesterday (to the political developments) was overdone," said Oliver Plana, head of sales at Asiasec Equities Inc.

Economic growth

"Probably the announcement of the economic growth numbers, which were better than expected, worked to cushion the market's decline," he said.

The government said the gross domestic product grew 4.4 percent in the third quarter, mainly on account of high agriculture sector growth.

A central bank survey of businessmen showed there was optimism of sustained economic expansion in the fourth quarter and first quarter of 2004 as election-related spending boosts growth.

Share prices are expected to move listlessly next week, dealers said. Investors would likely stay on the sidelines to await further developments, they added.

"Elections always cause uncertainties," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities Inc. He added that the Phisix would likely trade within narrow range of between 1,280 and 1,300. *With AP, Reuters, AFP reports*

From page A1

scarcity.

"While macro economic figures paint a picture of economic stability, real day-to-day conditions lived through by workers, peasants and other poor sectors will prove that the President failed to deliver domestic economic recovery."

Underdog

Malacañang depicted Ms Macapagal as an underdog in the face of the more popular showing of Roco and Poe as front-runners in the Pulse Asia survey.

"The administration is always handicapped in these matters because it has to bear the burden of governance and all the issues that are borne by it, while others can simply find fault, criticize and raise illusions and promises, as well as heap hatred, contempt and disrespect upon the presidency," Bunye said.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, a member of the President's campaign team, said the Pulse Asia survey showed that Ms Macapagal was "pulling away" from all other presidential aspirants.

Pichay took issue with the INQUIRER report, based on the survey results, that Ms Macapagal could lose to Roco and Poe.

He said the survey had data to prove that Ms Macapagal was leading all other presidential candidates "if the elections were held today."

He also said the previous survey showed that Ms Macapagal ranked behind Sen. Noli de Castro and Roco, but that the latest survey showed she had taken the lead against the two men.

Not Roco but Poe

Two administration officials counted Roco out, saying it was Poe who would be the President's closest rival.

Housing Secretary Mike Defensor said the Pulse Asia survey showed that Roco's ratings had remained steady but those of Ms Macapagal had improved.

Defensor said the 2004 elections would be a "showdown" between Ms Macapagal and Poe.

Another Palace official, who did not want to be named, aired the same assessment.

"He [Roco] may be popular in surveys, but the reality of politics is that the race will be between the administration and the strongest opposition candidate," the official said.

He said that as far as political affiliation was concerned, Roco was "neither here nor there."

The official said the President would beat Poe because it would be "popularity versus performance, experience and wisdom."

"The President will definitely have the edge there," he said, adding that Poe was an "unknown quantity," not having been in any public post.

"If [businessmen] want continuity and help for the economy to recover, who else can give it to them?" the official said.

He admitted that the administration was careful not to attack Poe in order not to make him an underdog.

"His candidacy could be explosive so why make him even stronger?" the official said.

Protest rally

Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo thinks the President will emerge the winner.

"I'm confident that the people will know how to judge the quality, experience, vision and the ability to make this vision become real," he said.

But for all that, the KMU will mount a protest rally against Ms Macapagal on Sunday at the Liwasang Bonifacio to mark the 140th birth anniversary of the hero Andres Bonifacio.

"We vow to do everything we can to junk [the President's] leadership and frustrate her political ambitions," Labog said. "We have had enough of her corrupt, repressive and anti-worker politics. We want her out of Malacañang as soon as possible."

The KMU said the local unemployment level had reached 4.2 million, up from 3.4 million in 2000. It said the state of joblessness in the country was among the worst in Asia.

Labog said the overseas Filipino workers sending money to their families were what was saving the government.

"The growing Gross National Product is due to remittances sent by millions of OFWs... But despite this, they suffer dangerous, low-paid and appalling conditions," he said.

But the Department of Labor and Employment said there were more than 9,000 job vacancies in various companies, industries and the government.

The DOLE directed job-hunters to the Public Employment Service Office in their city or municipality.

New coalition vs GMA

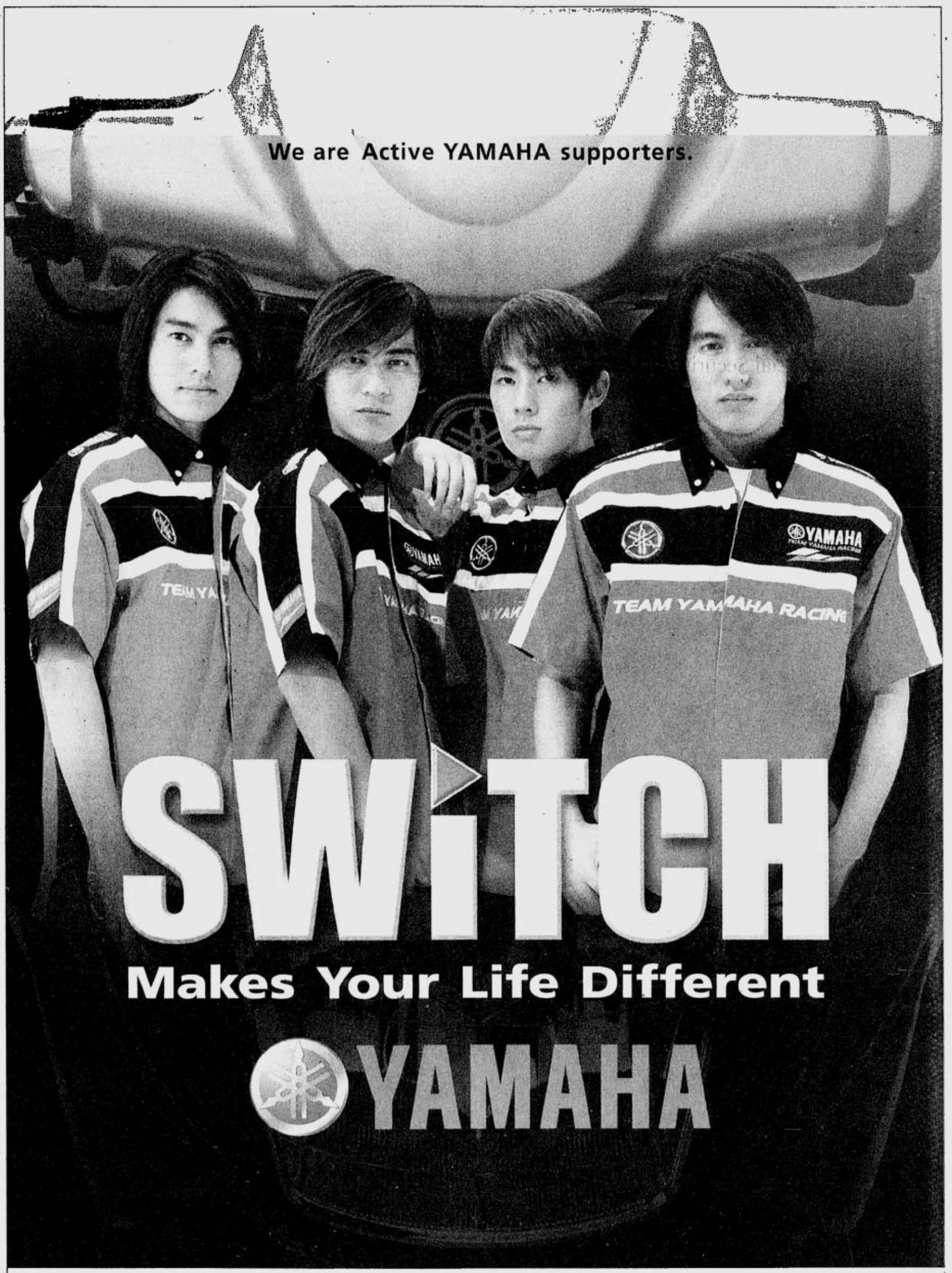
Around half a million workers belonging to more than 10 labor groups, including the decades-old National Federation of Labor Unions, yesterday formed a new coalition against trade liberalization and globalization and, by extension, the President.

Former New People's Army leader Nilo dela Cruz said the newly formed Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Manggagawa ng Pilipinas (KPMP) was not inclined to focus on personalities.

But when asked if the new coalition would range itself against the President, Dela Cruz said: "Definitely. She is the author of trade liberalization and globalization in the country."

In the mid-1990s, the then Sen. Macapagal-Arroyo actively worked for the Philippines' inclusion in the World Trade Organization and its ratification of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Organized workers have been protesting the country's participation in the WTO-GATT because of the adverse effects on local industries that cannot keep up with competition from cheap imported goods.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

China-Taiwan crisis over bill averted

BEIJING—China's state-media said Friday the passage of a "watered down" bill on referendums in Taiwan was a "great defeat" for the island's president, Chen Shui-bian, while analysts said a pending crisis had been postponed.

At the same time, at least two official newspapers warned the passing of the legislation—which would allow for a vote on sovereignty under certain very narrow circumstances—would have an impact on Beijing-Taipei relations.

The government had no immediate official reaction, but analysts said Beijing would likely accept the situation ahead of a visit to the United States by Premier Wen Jiabao next month.

"It will ease immediate tensions," said China watcher Joseph Cheng from City University of Hong Kong.

"For the moment, I think China will definitely accept the situation and avoid any open pressure on Taiwan.

"Premier Wen Jiabao will certainly raise the issue and hope that the United States will exercise some pressure on Taiwan to not go too far."

The bill passed in the parliament Thursday makes possible referendums on sensitive issues such as independence and changes to Taiwan's name, but also sets hurdles that would make such changes hard to achieve in practice.

A state-backed group seeking peaceful reunification between mainland China and Taiwan nevertheless described the bill as "extremely irresponsible."

"The extremely irresponsible move, which goes against the fundamental interests of Taiwanese people, will be finally cast aside by the public," the China Daily quoted Wang Kebin, secretary general of the China Council for the Promotion of Peaceful National Reunification, as saying.

Wang said it would further undermine social stability and economic development in Taiwan, which China considers part of its territory even though the island broke away from mainland rule in 1949.

In the run-up to the vote in parliament, China repeatedly re-stated its long-standing policy that it would use military force to prevent the island moving toward independence.

The China Daily, in a front-page report, referred to the bill as "watered down", removing the imminent danger of Taiwan independence but said it could still be "a source of contention."

"A handful of die-hard separatist members may still take advantage of the legal mechanism to provoke the mainland and trigger tension in bilateral relations," Liu Guoshen, director of the Taiwan Research Institute at Xiamen University, was quoted as saying.

The Global Times trumpeted the legislation as a failure for Chen.

"Independence referendum of Chen Sui-bian fails," said its headline.

"For the team of Chen Sui-bian, this is a great defeat. But the proposal of defensive referendum has been voted and this will cause an unestimable impact on cross-Straits relations," it said.

The bill has a clause that says a "defensive referendum" on Taiwanese sovereignty is permitted in the event of an attack from China. *AFP*

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Dalai Lama eager to talk with Beijing over Tibet

ROME—The Dalai Lama said on Thursday he was extremely eager to negotiate with China about the treatment of Tibet and was optimistic about the outcome even though Beijing remained suspicious.

The exiled spiritual leader of Tibet said he was keen to send new delegations to Beijing after China hosted two trips in 14 months by his personal envoys in an apparent thawing of ties.

"We are very, very eager to continue this process a third time, a fourth time, a fifth time and so on until we reach meaningful discussions and understanding," the Dalai Lama said in a joint interview with Reuters and another news agency.

"I have confidence that I can help the Chinese government in order to achieve genuine stability and unity."

The crimson-robed monk said face-to-face contacts would improve relations with Beijing. "So I am optimistic, although at this moment the Chinese government is always suspicious."

Asked if he would consider meeting Chinese President Hu Jintao and whether he thought it could happen one day, he said: "It's possible."

Chinese troops imposed Communist rule on Tibet in 1950 and the Dalai Lama fled nine years later after a failed uprising against them. China claims Tibet as part of its territory and accuses the religious leader of separatist activities.

The 68-year-old, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, reaffirmed his long-standing position that he is not seeking independence but greater autonomy for the "Land of Snows."

THE EXILED Dalai Lama yawns prior to an interview in Rome, Nov. 27. AP

Beijing objects to foreign governments talking to him. It protested in September when President George W. Bush hosted him in Washington, and the same month Russia banned him from visiting for fear of damaging ties with China.

During his three-day visit to Rome, he has met Pope John Paul II, Italian parliamentarians, a junior minister at the foreign ministry and trade union leaders. No meeting has yet been planned with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Asked when and under what conditions he would return to Tibet, the Dalai Lama said: "As soon as there is some indication that I will be useful inside Tibet. I am ready to go." *Reuters*

Jacko's alleged sexual abuse victim 'very sick'

LOS ANGELES—A comedy club owner who says he introduced Michael Jackson to the cancer-stricken boy he is accused of molesting said the child is in such poor health that his remaining kidney is failing.

Jamie Masada, owner of The Laugh Factory in West Hollywood, said Thursday he brought Jackson and the child together about two years ago—soon after doctors gave the boy three weeks to live. He said the boy expressed an interest in meeting Jackson and Masada made "a few phone calls."

"The kid is not doing very good," Masada said at a Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless that he holds at the club each year.

Masada said doctors removed a large tumor from the boy's stomach some time ago, and at the same time took out one of his kidneys and spleen. He said the boy's remaining kidney is failing, and that he needs a transplant.

Masada said he saw the boy earlier this week. He said the boy was being treated at home, not a hospital, but was getting dialysis treatments.

It was unclear what effect the boy's condition could have on the case against Jackson. Masada said he and the boy had not discussed Jackson.

Jackson surrendered last week after an arrest warrant alleged he committed lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14. He was released on $3 million bail; authorities say they expect to file formal charges sometime after Dec. 15.

Jackson's attorney, Mark Geragos, said this week that the accusations are motivated by money and are untrue.

JACKSON

Masada said he met the boy at a camp where stars including Adam Sandler and Chris Tucker teach underprivileged children about comedy. He said he contacted Jackson's people and asked that Jackson watch a news report about the boy's condition and the efforts to help him.

He said he asked that the pop singer "call him, cheer him up."

Masada said that in the past, comedians have given blood for the boy and held benefits to help pay his medical bills.

Stuart Backerman, Jackson's spokesperson, declined to comment on Masada's account but said he hoped the boy's condition would improve.

"I think it goes without saying that we all hope he recovers well and that everybody's heartfelt wish is for him to be healthy," Backerman said.

The boy's mother has an unlisted phone number and could not be located for comment. The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of sexual abuse. *AP*

Saudi cops' raid yields truck carrying 1 ton of explosives

RIYADH—Saudi Arabia's security forces found a pick-up truck packed with more than a ton of explosives when they raided a militant cell primed to launch a "terrorist operation" in Riyadh, officials said on Thursday.

State television showed footage of the truck, seized after a clash on Tuesday in which two wanted militants were killed, filled with the explosives, rocket-propelled grenades and gas cylinders to magnify the force of any explosion.

Officials say Tuesday's raid by security forces thwarted an imminent attack during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr, less than three weeks after suspected al-Qaida bombers killed at least 18 people in a residential compound in the Saudi capital.

An interior ministry source said the truck had 1,267 kg of ammonium nitrate-based explosives in the back when it was seized. A further 1,377 kg of explosives was found nearby, along with more than a thousand rounds of ammunition.

Television footage showed a pick-up truck, painted dark brown and marked with military insignia. Authorities also showed what they said were forged emblems of state security agencies, and military uniforms.

Witnesses have said the attackers who struck on Nov. 9 at the Muhaya compound on Riyadh's eastern desert outskirts got through a Saudi National Guard checkpoint because their vehicle had military markings.

The two men killed on Tuesday were Abdul-Mohsen Abdul-Aziz al-Shebanat and Musaid Mohammed Daidan al-Subaie, the interior ministry said.

Shebanat was shot and killed as he fired at security forces from the boot of a car while Subaie blew himself up with a hand grenade, it said. Shebanat's corpse and Subaie's mangled remains were also shown on television.

Security forces were still hunting down an unspecified number of militants who escaped, the ministry said.

Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, has cracked down heavily on suspected Muslim militants since May, when triple suicide bombings in Riyadh killed 35 people. It says Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network is trying to topple the royal family which rules the world's biggest oil exporter.

Newspapers hailed Tuesday's clash as the fourth success by security forces this year in thwarting planned attacks. *Reuters*

KASHMIRI Muslim border village women carry firewood over their heads as a truce between India and Pakistan holds, at Mohra, 75 km west of Srinagar, Nov. 27. Long accustomed to running for cover, the villagers were visibly relaxed on Thursday as they grazed their animals and tended wheat and barley fields. REUTERS

100 nations set to agree on unexploded arms pact

GENEVA—Hopes rose on Thursday that nearly 100 nations, including the United States, would agree on a global treaty requiring countries to clear millions of unexploded weapons left by war in territories they control.

The 92 signatories to the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons were expected to approve by Friday a binding protocol on so-called Explosive Remnants of War, after two years of study and 12 months of negotiations.

"It is the first international treaty which requires to clear all unexploded weapons that pose a threat to civilians when the war is over," said India's ambassador for disarmament, Rakesh Sood, who is presiding over the talks.

"With this protocol, states will have a responsibility to clear or assist in such clearance. It will no longer be possible for parties to a conflict to just walk away," he told a news conference in Geneva.

The protocol will enter into force once it is ratified by at least 20 countries, Sood explained, adding that this would mark the first legally binding treaty on disarmament adopted at the United Nations since the anti-personnel land mines text of 1996.

"It's a divine surprise," said one Western diplomat, noting that Washington had earlier opposed the idea of a compulsory treaty.

The protocol says culprits will have to clear unexploded weapons from foreign territories they control as a result of war. *AFP*

India PM takes Kashmir ceasefire a step further

NEW DELHI—In a further boost for South Asian peace hopes, India's prime minister said he hoped to meet his Pakistani counterpart in January as a ceasefire between the rival nations' armies in Kashmir continued to hold for a third day Friday.

Despite the truce, however, violence again struck Indian Kashmir, with police saying two Islamic militants were gunned down in southern Poonch district Friday as they tried to cross from the Pakistani zone of Kashmir.

On the outskirts of the summer capital Srinagar, meanwhile, suspected Muslim militants overnight shot dead a former colleague and injured six security force personnel in an ambush, a police spokesperson said.

The killings brought the death toll over the last 24 hours to nine, including six rebels killed on Thursday, underscoring the fragility of the peace process, which New Delhi says is dependent on the end to the insurgency.

The two sides declared a surprise ceasefire in Kashmir on Tuesday, which officials said has been unbroken.

But both New Delhi and pro-Pakistani rebels have said there will be no truce inside Indian Kashmir, where an anti-Indian rebellion has raged since 1989 at a cost of tens of thousands of lives.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who extended a "hand of friendship" to Pakistan on April 18, said he is keen to meet his Pakistani counterpart Zafarullah Jamali on the sidelines of a South Asian summit in Islamabad in January.

"My program of going to Pakistan is being prepared and I will meet everyone there... I will be happy if Jamali meets me," Vajpayee told reporters in the northern Indian town of Lucknow late Thursday.

Vajpayee's visit to Islamabad for a Jan. 4 to 6 summit of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation is seen as important to advancing the peace process.

India's government had earlier said it would not talk to Pakistani leaders until the flow of rebels from the Pakistani zone of Kashmir to the Indian side was halted.

Jamali and Vajpayee spoke to each other by telephone in April soon after Vajpayee made his move to break a military standoff sparked by an attack on India's parliament in December 2001, which New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based militants. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

130 dead in DR Congo boat capsizing

KINSHASA—At least 130 people died in the capsizing of an overcrowded boat during a storm on Lake Maindombe in western Democratic Republic of Congo, the UN peacekeeping mission here said Thursday. Twenty-three people were rescued from the vessel, the Dieu Merci (Thank God), which had also been laden with 20 tons of merchandise. The boat's owner said earlier Thursday that 120 people died in the disaster Tuesday night on Lake Maindombe, which lies in Bandundu province around 600 km northeast of the capital, Kinshasa. *AFP*

Sharon takes tough line

TEL AVIV—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon took a tough line Thursday ahead of the unveiling of an unofficial peace plan, saying he will speed up the building of the controversial West Bank barrier and threatening the Palestinians with unilateral steps. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli army admitted to a blunder when it shot dead three unarmed Palestinians from the same family who were returning from celebrations marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. In a speech to members of the Israeli press in Tel Aviv, Sharon accused Palestinian prime minister Ahmed Qorei of falling to respect the internationally backed roadmap to peace blueprint and threatened unilateral measures. *AFP*

Thai man stuck with his German husband

BERLIN—A Thai man who masqueraded as a woman to wed a German man has failed to get the marriage annulled, and now seems saddled with his husband. A German court dismissed the Thai's request for an annulment because same-sex marriages are not recognized in Germany, and therefore cannot be reversed. "I don't know why they got married, whether it was love or the desire for a residence permit," said Ulrich Skwirblies, a spokesperson for the court in the western town of Celle. The 42-year-old Thai married the man in Denmark under a false name in 1994 and was later granted German residency. *Reuters*

Nobel Peace Prize winners' summit

ROME—Some 25 Nobel Peace Prize laureates, including Mikhail Gorbachev and the Dalai Lama, are due Friday to attend the fourth Nobel prize summit for three days of debate on the problems in today's world. "We will have Mikhail Gorbachev, the Dalai Lama, Shimon Peres, Lech Walesa, Rigoberta Menchu, 25 Nobel peace prize winners in total," a spokesperson for the organizers said. Kicking off the opening ceremony at Rome's city hall will be the awarding of the 'Man For Peace Award,' a prize given each year to an individual or organization in recognition of outstanding humanitarian activities. Italian actor Roberto Benigni won the award last year. This year it is due to go to a football team of Italian singers, both famous and unknown, who have collected more than 30 million euros for humanitarian programs over 22 years, a statement said. The summit, the fourth of its kind, will focus on new ethics in politics, the economy and science. It will last three days and be attended by Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi. *AFP*

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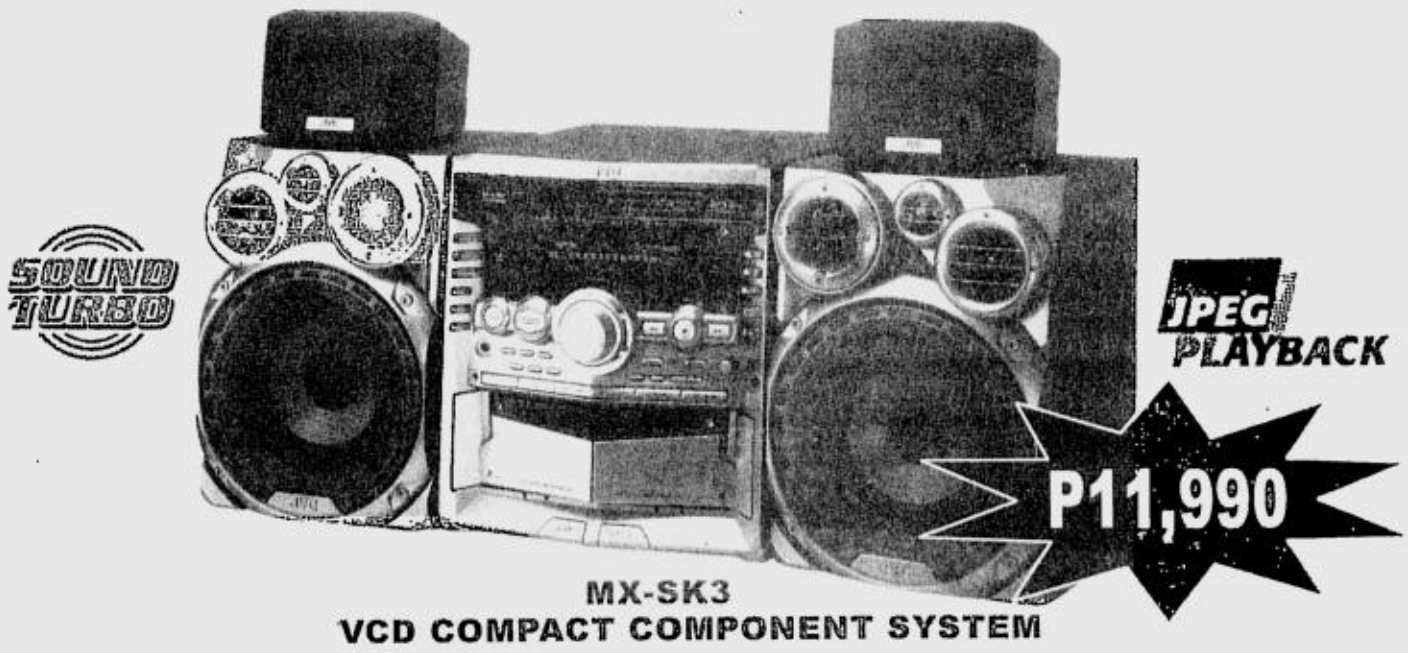

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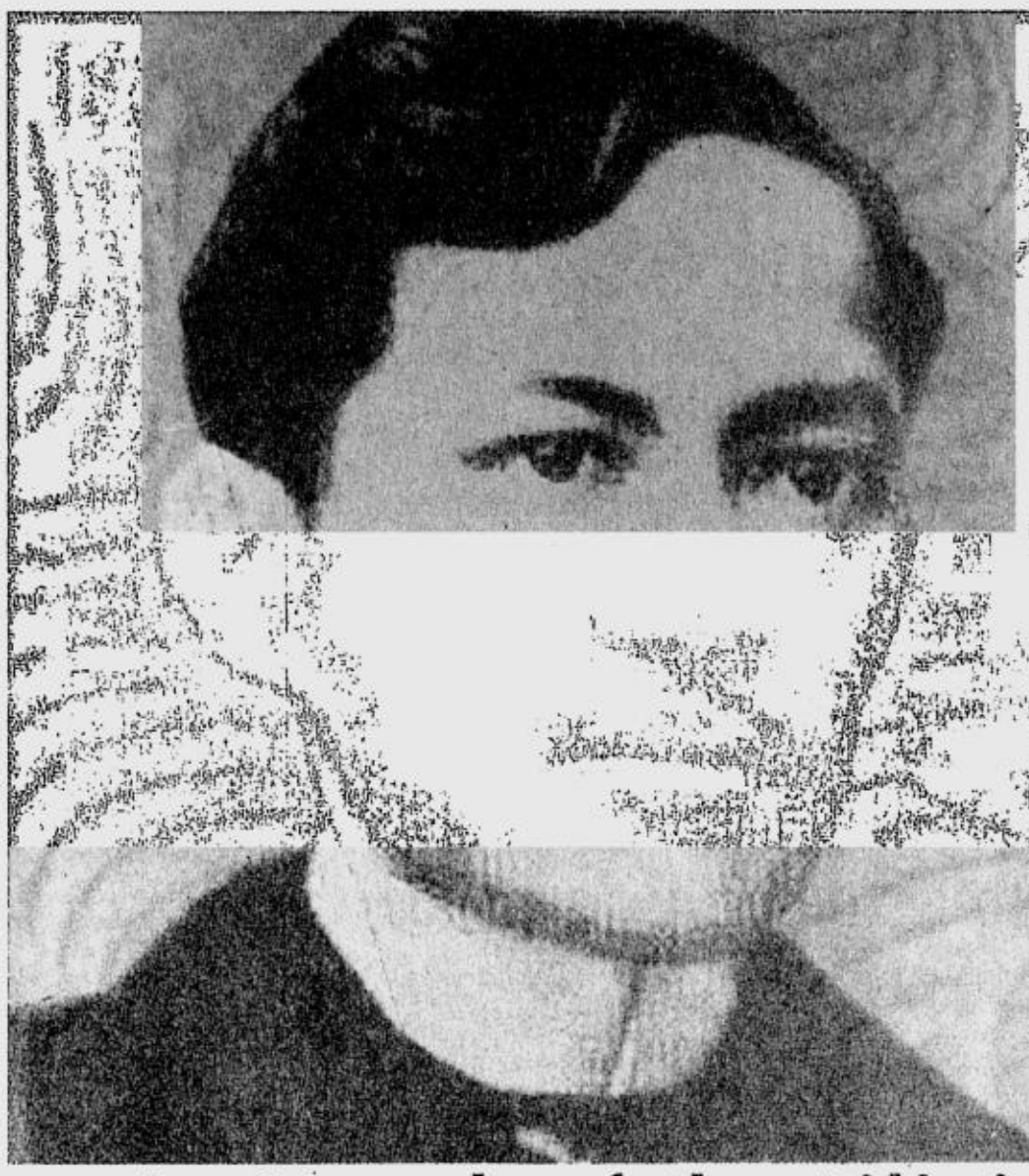


Partnership program of

Dr. JOSE P. RIZAL Memorial Award

In Search of the Filipino Physician of Distinction

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Medical Association as they confer the 13th PMA-UNILAB-STAMP Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the awardees for their valuable contributions in the field of medicine as exemplified by their significant achievements and by providing humanitarian service to our people

May you remain dedicated and competent in your chosen field and continue to address the medical needs of our countrymen, especially the poor and the underserved sectors of our society. My sincere gratitude to PMA for continuously supporting the Department of Health's programs aimed in improving the Filipinos quality of life.

The Department of Health lauds all efforts and activities by both government and private institutions which tend to promote excellence in healthcare.

Congratulations and Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Manuel M. Dayrit M.D., MSc
Secretary of Health
Chairman of the Board of Judges
13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award

The Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Award, given annually to recognize the extraordinary achievements of a Filipino physician, is special. We have followed this award through the years and noted how its luster has deepened and how precious it has become.

The award is the clearest expression of an ideal by the country's biggest medical organization: that in the practice of the medical profession, the narrow scientific and professional interests must always be consistent with the broad concerns of society and nation.

We applaud the PMA for strongly upholding this ideal in all its endeavors and STAMP for organizing and hosting this year's memorial award. We, at Unilab, are privileged to have always been a part of this award.

Congratulations to this year's awardee and to the PMA.

Joselito D. Campos, Jr.
Chairman of the Board & Chief Executive Officer
United Laboratories, Inc.

The Dr. Jose Rizal Memorial Award is one of the most fulfilling collaborations our company, Unilab, has with the Philippine Medical Association.

It symbolizes the nobility of the medical profession and the great sacrifice that its true practice entails. On the other hand, it celebrates the excellence and achievements of the Filipino physician. It is an award that is distinguished by the honor and prestige it confers upon the awardee and by the humility with which they have accepted it.

In behalf of Unilab, congratulations to the 13th Rizal Memorial awardee, to the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners for hosting this year's memorial award and to the Philippine Medical Association for defining the true Filipino physician for all of us

Carlos C. Ejercito
President &
Chief Operating Officer
United Laboratories, Inc.

Welcome to the 13th PMA-UNILAB-STAMP Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award. We feel honored to have you join us in paying respect to the Filipino physician, who closely exemplifies our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, as a medical practitioner in the service of the sick and as a nationalist in the service of the Filipino people.

This search is a continuing commitment to pay tribute to the model Filipino physician whose outstanding scholastic achievement, dedicated professional service and high moral excellence embody that of Dr. Jose P. Rizal's. The award has grown significantly and is now a national PMA undertaking with the STAMP, along with UNILAB as the proponent and the PMA as the nucleus.

Thank you all!

Jose T. Sanchez , M.D.
President
Philippine Medical Association

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, a prestigious award given every year to a deserving Filipino physician who has emulated the life of Dr. Jose P. Rizal. That said, I would like to pay tribute to the 27 entries proudly nominated by their different medical societies. They have been a source of inspiration for us all.

I would also like to thank the individuals who have contributed so much to this project. To the different judges this year, working with you all has been a wonderful experience. To the working committee members, I salute you for sharing your knowledge and time to this worthy endeavor. Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the various medical societies of the Southern Tagalog region, who had been very supportive of this premier project of STAMP.

To our partner in this endeavor, UNILAB, my heartfelt thanks for the unconditional support you have given from the time this award has started.

Congratulations to this year's deserving winner, onward we go, and may the good Lord guide as along our way!

Gregorio A. Andaman Jr., M.D.
Chairman,
13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award

To our Dear Awardees,

Greetings!

On behalf of STAMP, our warmest and heartfelt Congratulations!

It has been 13 long years since we gave out the first Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award. The award has since become a shining testament to the exemplary accomplishments of the Filipino physician, reflective of our national hero's vision to serve the country with heart, life and soul. Congratulations to our five finalists who are now ready to reap the rewards of their achievements.

More power to all of you and may God bless you!

Mona Lisa F. Cosme, M.D. MGM
STAMP- President 2003-2004
Co-Chairman
13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award

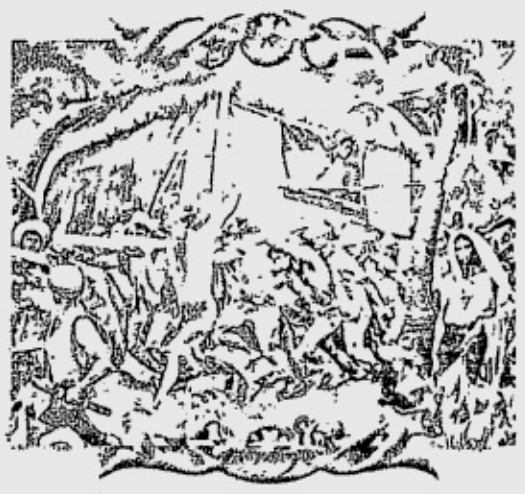
The **DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD** is given to an outstanding Filipino physician whose life and work embody the ideals of our national hero: in the heroic conduct of his practice, in the way he lives life that is reflective of Rizal's love for God and country, in his continued pursuit of scholarly work and in the selfless service to fellowmen, specially the poor and the underprivileged.

This partnership program of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and United Laboratories Inc., initiated by Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (STAMP), hopes to inspire both physicians and non-physicians to perpetuate the memory and legacy of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, writer, philanthropist, sportsman and physician.

MILESTONE AND MEMORY: HISTORY OF THE DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD

In 1987, a group of the PMA component presidents from the Southern Tagalog Region conceived of giving an award to an outstanding Filipino physician of the year. The STAMP regional council, headed by Dr. Galicano Espiritu, decided to give the first ever award.

Later, to make the award national in scope, STAMP sought the support of the PMA and United Laboratories Inc. Henceforth, the award was given annually under the name **PMA-UNILAB-STAMP DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD.**



UNILAB CHAMPIONS THE DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD

Championing this prestigious award is the pharmaceutical leader, United Laboratories, Inc.

At the very root of its culture is the spirit of "Bayanihan", a Filipino tradition of comradeship, of working hand in hand with the Department of Health as well as its health care allies -- doctors, dentists, nurses, scientists, technicians and therapists -- for the welfare of Filipinos, by providing high quality pharmaceutical products and services. By championing the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, Unilab hopes to inspire everyone -- physicians and non-physicians alike -- to nurture unity, to work together and then to share the fruits of our achievements.

MAKING THE MARK BY LIVING THE LEGACY

The quest for the winners of the **DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD** begins with the submission of nominations by the various medical organizations after a stringent selection process from among hundreds of doctors. After this, the nominees' background and accomplishments were evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Active Member of the Philippine Medical Association
- Academic Preparation, Experience & Training
- Professional Practice, Research and Scholarly Work
- Community, Socio-cultural & Religious Involvement
- Other qualifications: Excellence in other fields of endeavor

A Board of Judges makes the final selection of Five Finalists, from among whom one will win the prestigious award.

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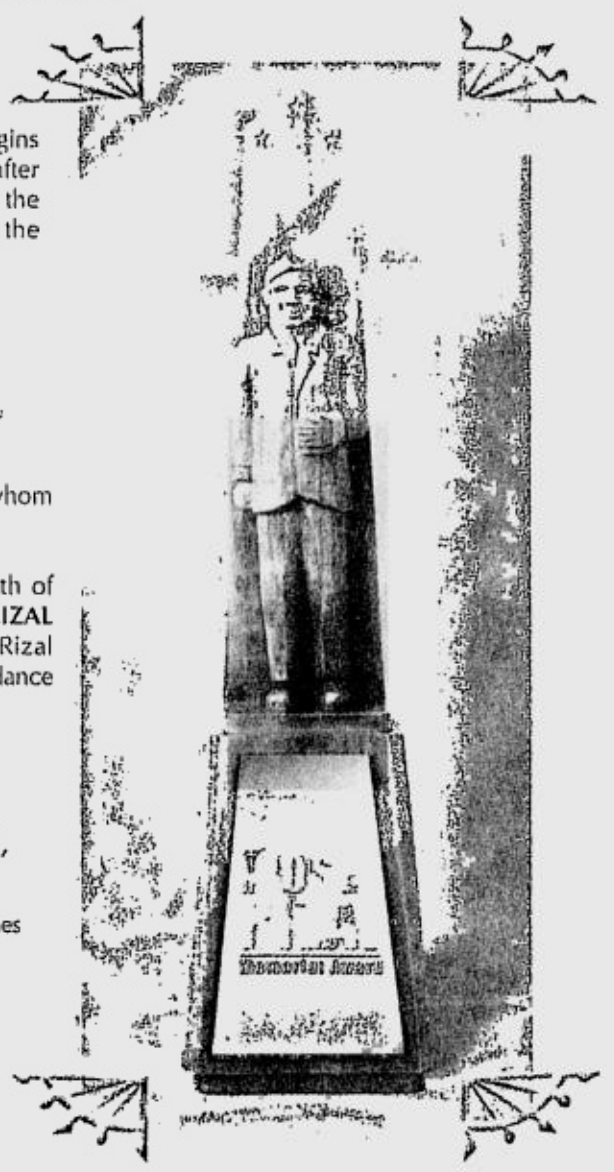

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Celebrate the Triumphs of the Filipino Physician of Distinction

From among the many nominees of this year's Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award, five doctors were singled out for embodying the highest ideals of our national hero - in the exemplary conduct of their practice and in their selfless service to their fellowmen, God and country. Meet these five physicians who have defied the odds and hurdled the challenges of their noble profession to emerge triumphant as finalists of the 13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award!

Public Health.

In all her years as a medical practitioner, the loyalty and dedication of the top finished her medical course from the Colle of the University of Santo Toma d the of Public Health from the P

Her long line of accomplishments years and 8 years in non-governm medical and non-medical initiat and citations

ove of pe various innovations and encouraged constituents. Her stint ca

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multi- varded phy achievements have bee specializations from the Ro limbus to such prestigious 1984 and the Ou nd

51st International Hospital Federation held Hon international convention that drew 42 countries. He Asian Association where he sits as Direc

province Dr. Priela is also know as the d from Medical Dental and Legal Missions to Adopt-th humanitarian relief missions for flash flood, tsunami-ad resource person for community as well as religious medical and hospital consultancy engagements

Doctor of Medicine graduate from the Universit years, and his unwavering service to God country the toast of the Oriental Mindoro Medical Soci P. Rizal Memorial Award

this and does man without dyn inde ble organi who ets thi ore the n get sta Dr. dolfo P. Bellosillo afte all, ha ment ould match with commitmen de ab th of the Philippine graduate las ous certificates backed under his belt. Trained ivers ty to Dr Bellosillo has held important position in Interna rgan ip We tern Congress of Cardiac Rehabilit nd Secret Geriatri Cardiolog

de Dios Hospi Department Internal Medicine of the San Juan Supplies Heart C and also as Medical Director of St An La ation of Heart Dise e he has often ough n ence around the country ontinuing advoc ppre ion vernment.

In the to thoracic cardi medical Chinese Board Slovak Republic Italy, Russia, Egypt Iran, Indonesia, Cuba The ion to the academe includes teaching at the UP College ng hapt in Cardiac Re fe textbook on Cardiology

This ar what he might g nd make other ity to see what he has ac which why the Board of Trustees of the Manila Medical Society has singled him out for nominatio From testimonials of appreciation from the Philippine Medical Association the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine Heart C Dr. Adolfo P. Bellosillo ac men indeed worthy finalist

IM/RHEUMATOLOGY Manil

Dr. Tito P. Torralba's educational, academic and profes al ha gr d speaks volumes of the achievements of this eminent do s he chose to specialize in rheumatology. A Pha of Medic from Santo Tomas, Dr. Torralba earned Arthriti Rhe tism Disease from the

He returned to the US with a ran his retirement in 1995. In 2000, he ed now sits as the Medical Director of the ST Hospital. health care costs and economic crisi the poo indigency trust fund for poor patients i quality health care to all in accordan

A prolific writer and researcher, Dr. Torralba numerous insightful articles that have appeared in various professional publi research journals, on topics dealing with his chosen field of specia after national lecturer. With over a hundred speaking engagements to his cre Dr enriched his expertise with his attendance of global conferences on the ta aken him from annual symposiums in the US to medical congresses in E South America

Similarly, his numerous affiliations with professional organizati th multi-facetted Filipino to the fore. He has been a President of the Asia Pa for Rheumatology APLAR Philippine College of Physicians Ob pi Association. Likewise, he was also the founding President of the

Countless recognitions have been accorded to nine starring a Diplo from the Philippine College of Physicians given on sta and a Medal of Merit from the APLAR

Still part of the active staff in rheumatology at several hospitals, the indefatigable ate and his lifeworks are indeed worthy of a nomination from the Philippine Rheumatol atio

DR. JOSE P. RIZAL MEMORIAL AWARD
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Blank check

EDITORIAL

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of the candidacy of actor Fernando Poe Jr. for the presidency on Wednesday has sent powerful shock waves to the markets. The day following the announcement, the peso sank to a new trading low of P55.85 to the US dollar, breaching the all-time record of P55.75 at the height of the impeachment crisis during the time of President Joseph Estrada in January 2001. The peso plunge resonated in the stock market as stocks fell to their lowest in seven weeks. The main index dropped 1.86 percent or 24.94 points to 1,319.42 points, the lowest since October.

The new shock followed the resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, sending the peso reeling. The peso's fall showed the volatility of the markets in response to events that create political and economic uncertainties.

The Poe announcement came as the international credit rating firm Moody's Investors Service announced that it may downgrade the country's debt ratings in the face of heightened uncertainties associated with the May 2004 elections. There is no doubt that Poe's candidacy was the biggest single political event that rocked the markets, which have already been badly shaken by a series of disturbances since the failed July 27 military mutiny.

With their sharp reaction to Poe's presidential bid, the markets are sending a blunt message that they are concerned over his still undisclosed economic policies and his competence to manage the economy. Investors and risk analysts are bothered that Poe might repeat the mismanagement of the economy by the corruption-plagued administration of the disgraced President Estrada, who like Poe, had meager educational credentials to run the government competently.

The markets consider Poe a risk that makes the business community uncertain, given his lack of experience in public affairs and his evasiveness in giving an idea of his economic programs. This concern was expressed by the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, which derided the opposition for "pushing for a candidate who is more popular than credible." It warned that "investors will see the Philippine economy as a risk because we want a leader who is popular rather than experienced in handling state affairs."

Camacho shared this concern and put it more bluntly: "His lack of experience and expertise, especially in economy, worries some people. That is why it is important for the electorate to make an informed decision in 2004."

The reaction of the Poe camp to the concerns of the business community is that these were coming from "elitists." But this response only reflects the shallowness of the minds surrounding the actor. Businessmen prosper or are ruined by the political environment in which they operate. Businesses are the engines of growth and economic dynamism. To be dismissive about their concerns reflects a lack of understanding on the part of Poe's supporters of the dynamic relationship between politics and business. At the very start of the launch of his presidential bid, Poe is already exhibiting lack of depth and this does not inspire confidence in his ability to run the government.

Poe at the very start heightened anxieties over his credentials to manage the economy by evading questions about his economic policies, the most important questions to the business community. He responded with a platitude, which suggested he was operating from a vacuum. He said that in time he would disclose his economic team and policies.

The first statement he blurted out was neither helpful nor reassuring. "I am sincere, dedicated and I love my country," he said. If this is what Poe understands by policy, then we can expect more empty motherhood prattle from him in the weeks to come.

The Filipino people have the right to demand more substance from anyone who wants to be their president. Poe is, in effect, asking the Filipino people to sign a blank check by electing him on blind trust, without even giving them an inkling of what he intends to do as president. This is what swindlers do when they rob you of hard-earned money.

Whether or not he will be able to organize soon an economic team and to name his advisers is no assurance of his competence. The members of the team may give a clue to their economic orientation. But Estrada recruited 40 advisers, and took advice from his unofficial "midnight" advisers who were his drinking buddies. Even if Poe recruits 100 advisers, the question that remains to be asked is: Will he understand what they whisper into his ears?

Grammar unbecoming

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

ONE thing that delighted me when I read the resolution of the Supreme Court against lawyer Allan Paguia was its dispositive part that read:

"Wherefore, (he) is hereby indefinitely suspended from the practice of law, effective upon his receipt hereof, for conduct unbecoming a lawyer and an officer of the court."

Notice anything new, *compañeros*? That obtrusive preposition is missing, and correctly so. The ground for the suspension is "conduct unbecoming a lawyer, etc." It is not, as in many past similar resolutions, "conduct unbecoming of a lawyer."

That mistake should be obvious to the ordinary student of English even in high school. Yet it has marred Philippine jurisprudence for years, maybe even decades, through the ignorance or force of habit of outstanding jurists.

When I was on the Court, I waged a tactful campaign to correct that telling error. I said the "of" should be deleted. I gave persuasive examples like "That color becomes her" and Bing Crosby crooning to Dorothy Lamour that popular love song, "Moonlight Becomes You."

I said that if he had sung "moonlight becomes of you," he would have lost the lovely lady to Bob Hope, his rival in the "Road" movies. But many of my fellow justices, who must not have been theater fans or had not heard the song, persisted in declaring respondents guilty of conduct unbecoming of a lawyer or a judge.

It is those *ponentes* who should have been punished for grammar unbecoming justices of the Supreme Court. They should be held liable for at least slight physical injuries to the English tongue.

"Become" is a transitive verb meaning, according to Webster, "to befit, suit, to be suitable to in appearance, as, 'that hat becomes you.'" "Becoming" is an adjective meaning "suitable, appropriate, seemly: as cursing is not becoming to a lady."

Thus, the Oakwood mutineers are facing the traditional accusation of "conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman," without the "of." If they are indicted for "conduct unbecoming of an officer and a gentleman," they should move to dismiss the charge for faulty grammar.

Another common error of the Supreme Court is the dangling participle. The usual example is "At the age of five, his father died." The intended meaning is that the boy was five when his father died, but that is not what the sentence says. As constructed, it suggests that it is the father who died when he was only five.

To avoid confusion, say, "When the son was five, the father died." Otherwise, the boy's father would be dead at only five, perhaps for being unnaturally prolific.

Often enough, the Court will dispose as follows: "Wherefore, finding no error in the appealed decision, the same is hereby affirmed *in toto*." Correct? Wrong. As worded, the ruling is saying that the appealed decision has found nothing wrong with it and is therefore affirming itself.

To correct that legal absurdity, the ungrammatical sentence should be recast thus: "Wherefore, finding no error in the appealed decision, we hereby affirm it (or 'the same' if you like to be esoteric) *in toto*."

It is the Court that finds no error in the appealed decision and is therefore affirming it completely.

My use of the word "esoteric" was intended to point to another failing of the Court: its employment of high sounding words to excite the reader with its erudition. "Disquisition" is a favorite term of some justices that unnerves me like glass grating on metal. "Prioritize" is another offender. "Again reiterate" is also a culprit among many others.

And I can't understand why they can't simply say that the petition has merit instead of loftily proclaiming that it is "impressed with merit." Does that make their prose unforgettable? Perhaps they want to imitate the inimitable Justice Gregorio Perfecto, who once wrote in a colorful separate opinion:

"The rules governing the phenomena of osmosis and diffusion, of permeability and isotonic equilibrium, of assimilation and waste dislodgement, of development and reproduction, like all laws of life, are uniform and universal." (There is more but not enough space for the entire disquisition.)

A judicial decision is not intended only for lawyers and judges with their whereases and heretofores that they themselves sometimes find hard to decipher. I remember one occasion when I confessed that I could not understand a colleague's *ponencia* and to my surprise the rest of the Court concurred.

Judges, and especially justices, write not only for the counsel but also for the parties and the general public who are mostly laymen. It is therefore necessary that their decisions be couched in language accessible to ordinary people who are confused enough by *mandamus* and *certiorari* and *locus standi* to be further bewildered by legal grandstanding.

That is why I was elated when I read that resolution punishing Paguia for conduct unbecoming a lawyer and an officer of the court. The correct omission of the preposition "of" made my day so early in the morning and inspired this sincere tribute to our imperfect Supreme Court.

Still breathtaking

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

(I have apologized to her over the phone, and face to face, and she was very gracious in her acceptance. However, she deserves a written apology, so here it is: My sincerest, albeit belated, apology to Rep. Reylina "Nene" Nicolas of Bulacan. I wrote, in my Nov. 8 column on the impeachment of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., that she, "it would appear, signed, then withdrew, then signed again" the impeachment resolution. It was a parenthetical remark, but such is the power of the press that she received reproachful calls about it. My information, obtained from Congress by a research assistant, was wrong. Nicolas having withdrawn her signature, did not sign again. Sorry Representative Nicolas. Thank you for being such a good sport about it.)

JUDGE Teresa Yadao has written, in a letter published in this paper early this week, to "clarify certain points" I had raised in my column last Nov. 15. For one, she denies that the speed with which she disposed of the Kuratong Baleleng case was "breathtaking." After all, says she, the rule is that a judge has 10 days from the time a case is raffled to determine the existence of probable cause for the issuance of a warrant of arrest, and it took her more than a month to do so in this case.

In a way, she is right. There certainly was enough evidence presented by the prosecution to warrant an **immediate** finding that there was probable cause that a crime had been committed and the accused had a hand in it, which is not the same as proof beyond reasonable doubt. That is what a trial is for.

Consider: There is no question that 11 people were killed or that the accused (Lacson et al.) had admitted the killing, although they claimed self-defense. So the only issue is whether the killing was indeed in self-defense —a shoot-out—or it was a rubout. The accused claim that the victims were not in police custody at the time of their deaths—they were just under surveillance.

But the prosecution had affidavits from persons who were present during the raid that rounded up the victims; the official autopsy reports that the victims had abrasions on their wrists which showed that they were either tied or handcuffed; they were negative for powder burns; and official reports to the effect that the path of the bullets was inward into rather than outward from the vans in which the victims died.

Which is why the decision that there was probable cause should have been a no-brainer. Yadao is right: With the evidence before her, to have taken a month to make a decision did not show breathtaking speed, but quite the opposite.

Except Yadao decided that there was a lack of probable cause. Which, she concedes is a rare and exceptional occurrence. So the question of whether she made that decision with breathtaking speed is still open. And the 10-day rule that Yadao cites to show that she was not breathtakingly fast in her decision, continues in the following vein, per the Rules of Court:

"In case of doubt on the existence of probable cause, the judge may order the prosecutor to present additional evidence within five (5) days from notice and the issue must be resolved by the court within thirty (30) days from the filing of the complaint or information."

Yadao obviously had her doubts, and should have asked the prosecution, but chose not to, to present additional evidence—which would have lengthened by another 35 days her turnaround time. In which case, one month from raffle to decision would indicate breathtaking speed.

Yadao cites the Allado vs Diokno case to justify her rare and exceptional ruling. In the Allado case, the Supreme Court ruled that if the judge finds, clearly from the evidence, that there is no probable cause, he can simply dismiss the case. But consider the circumstances that warranted the Supreme Court finding in that case that the judge should have decided there was no probable cause: the body of the supposed victim was never found, i.e. there was no evidence that a crime had been committed. The prosecution reasoned that there was no body because the victim had been burned in an open field with the use of tires and gasoline, and this supposedly left no trace whatsoever. Finally, the judge did not personally examine the evidence or bother to call the prosecution witnesses (ironically, in that case it was Lacson who headed the team) to question their incredible accounts.

Contrast these with the Kuratong case, where the bodies of the 11 victims were found, and where the accused, by claiming self-defense, admitted that they had participated in the killing. The reasoning behind the conclusion that these circumstances are similar to the circumstances in the Allado case is breathtaking.

It's true that the prosecution did not present Yadao with the Senate's findings—but the evidence that was before her was apparently even more complete and more damning (new witnesses) than what convinced the Senate that Lacson et al. should be charged with murder. The logic that led Yadao to come to a conclusion opposite to that of the senators is breathtaking.

The Valerio case came to mind because, in that case, Yadao gave the prosecution (Sigfrid Fortun) so much leeway. In the Kuratong case, she gave the prosecution no quarter at all, and gave the defense (Fortun) so much leeway. Of course, the appearance of Fortun in both cases is beyond her control. What is within her control is how she treats his clients.

No longer in a Volks

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AT A dinner-reception hosted last Thursday by Shell Exploration B.V. on behalf of the Malampaya consortium for a mixed business, professional and diplomatic crowd at the residence of British Ambassador Paul Dimond, the main fare was the Italian opera "Don Pasquale," a delightful story of love, coquetry and deception performed by the British opera company, Pavilion Opera. But the topic whispered about by Filipino businessmen and followed keenly by some diplomats was the entry of movie king Fernando Poe Jr. into the 2004 presidential derby. The businessmen are plainly worried about FPJ's entry, particularly after having watched his one-on-one interview over ANC, during which he reportedly made very little sense. "*Nakakanerbiyos*," chorused the Filipino executives who vowed that they would grill all the candidates intensively on their economic programs, including FPJ.

* * *

The political scene is in an incredible state of flux. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon took a leave of absence from the LDP, lamenting the "confusion" and failure to respect the selection process in the opposition. He joined the camp of former Sen. Raul Roco, who is launching his candidacy tomorrow with a splash at the Folk Arts Theater. Biazon is among the first incumbent politicians drawn by Roco's camp, an important catch for the latter, though Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon is staying with the LDP.

* * *

Yesterday also saw the entry of Senate President Franklin Drilon into the Liberal Party as its chair, and judging from the rowdy, impressive assemblage of LP leaders from all around the country, led by former Senate President Jovito Salonga, at the Aristocrat Restaurant, it looked, to quote Manila Mayor Lito Atienza who hosted the affair, more like a convention than a swearing in, though he said it was just a "sample" of things to come. *Mukhang hindi na pang* Volkswagen *ang* LP, as Sen. Joker Arroyo once alleged;it would now need many big tourist buses to load its members.

Drilon's entry into the LP was a good way to revitalize this once-great party of Diosdado Macapagal, Salonga, Ninoy Aquino and Gerry Roxas.

At yesterday's oath-taking, I noted the predominance of many young leaders in the 45 to 58 age bracket, perhaps making it the "youngest" party around. Among them were party president Rep. Butch Abad, Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Housing Secretary Michael Defensor, Representatives Nereus Acosta, Benigno Aquino III and Aleta Suarez, and Sen. Kiko Pangilinan. There were also, many new faces.

* * *

Drilon's entry into the LP was a masterstroke. It puts him in a better position to seek the vice-presidential nomination of the administration party, where his chief rivals are Senators Noli de Castro and Robert Barbers. Going for Drilon is his wide base in Western Visayas, which is dominated by the LP and is actively pushing for his vice presidential bid. Moreover, while he has operated as an independent for three years, Drilon's entry into the LP marks his political break from Sen. Edgardo Angara, his mentor at the Accra Law Office during the martial law years. Now, as a political observer noted, the Senate chief has emerged as his own man.

* * *

Like all political parties, the LP is concerned about whom it will support in the presidential race. Yesterday, the party's national executive council met ahead of Drilon's swearing-in to thresh out the problem. Clearly dominating the party are staunch allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo, which shouldn't surprise anyone since her father was one of its leaders and two of its ranking members serve in her Cabinet. In fact, one or two LPs are being considered for GMA's senatorial lineup, including Noynoy Aquino.

But some LP leaders also came out expressing preference for Roco and FPJ. Among those for Roco are former Rep. Lorna Verano-Yap and Rep. Edgar Erice of Caloocan, who said he switched to Roco after GMA said last December she wouldn't run. Yap said she had been authorized by Roco's camp to invite the LP to forge an alliance with him and also invite Drilon to be his running mate. After some debate, Abad was authorized by the council to constitute a panel that would open a dialogue not just with Roco but with other political groups and candidates. I suspect, however, that the majority of LPs will end up with GMA, though perhaps the LP will not take a party stand on whom to support. This also looks like the likely course of action of other parties such as the NPC.

* * *

At the LP gathering, I had a chat with Secretary Marita "Mai-Mai" Jimenez, who is very close to GMA. I queried her about GMA's campaign and she said that the President prefers to concentrate on doing her work instead of campaigning outright or attacking other candidates. If you notice, Jimenez pointed out, she has not said anything negative about anyone, whereas her political enemies have thrown all kinds of accusations at her. The Palace official said that if GMA is perceived to be dishing out projects left and right, this is because those projects are only now coming on stream and GMA is quite happy about them.

* * *

Reports said the President is happy over the results of the latest Pulse Asia survey showing Roco leading the pack, but with GMA holding her own in a close race with him and FPJ. She has reason to be happy, for as Pulse Asia's Felipe Miranda pointed out yesterday, the survey shows that she's "back in the picture" whereas only two months ago she was "being pushed out of Malacañang." Miranda said, however, that GMA has to work harder to improve her trust rating. Moreover, as National Security Adviser Roilo Golez stressed to this columnist, one has to factor into the survey results the vast advantages of a sitting president, which are nothing to sneeze at.

Disturbing developments

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

HERE'S the final installment, I hope, on the story of F, the medical student who suffered sexual assault at the hands of a "senior," a resident of the UP-PGH, and her continuing search for justice and, as she puts it, "to tell the world that I'm not telling a lie."

In August last year, F, through her lawyer Evalyn Ursua, filed a formal complaint for sexual harassment and grave misconduct against Dr. M. To its credit, UP-Manila recognized the complaint and constituted a committee to investigate and decide on the case. In a faxed note, Dr. Marita Reyes, chancellor of UP-Manila, says that hearings on the case are ongoing and that she expects the matter to be resolved "soon."

However the case is resolved, my hope is that the entire UP system, and PGH in particular, will draw lessons from it far beyond merely determining who between F and Dr. M is telling the truth. If F is to be believed, her accusations, in the words of lawyer Ursua, "strongly indicate a teaching and work culture characterized by lack of discipline and proper decorum, and disrespect for and sexual exploitation of women. It is a culture where sexual harassment and sexual harassers thrive..."

When I told a doctor-friend of mine, a woman, about this case, she confirmed F's claim that the orthopedics department has long been a hotspot of machismo in PGH. My friend, who is a consultant, recalled an incident that took place when she was still an intern. The head of the "ortho" department chanced upon her doing her rotation there and without warning lifted her by the armpits, exclaiming, "You're such a small girl, and so light!" The more she squirmed and protested, the more the department head and all the other male doctors around him laughed. So she decided to keep still and just calmly announced: "Please put me down, this is not proper."

"At that time, we women knew very little about our rights," she says. "So I didn't even think I was wronged. But I have never forgotten it."

"See," I said, "you were only lifted, and still you can't brush it away from your mind. What more F, who was raped?"

* * *

THAT last word, by the way, has been disputed by Dr. M's counsel, who wrote a long letter in reaction to the first column, saying in one part that his client has been accused "only" of sexual harassment. F's parents have told me they are contemplating filing a criminal case against the doctor, but under the UP policy, administrative charges only cover cases of sexual harassment, which in any case includes outright assault and rape.

Earlier this month, Ursua wrote to Dr. Reyes calling her attention to two "grave and disturbing" developments. One involves F's request to the College of Medicine that she be allowed to do her rotation on orthopedic surgery outside of UP-PGH. The former dean of the college had in fact orally given his permission, but, hearing of this, the residents and consultants of the ortho department wrote a letter objecting to the request and insisting that F do her rotation with them.

In a meeting with the new college dean, F was told that her request had been denied. As F tells it, the dean reasoned that it would create a bad precedent, as students might "just ask to be rotated outside for whatever reason."

The dean, who is a woman, also allegedly rebuked F thus: "It's been 18 months and you're still like that. I'm telling you, this will affect you. Learn to forgive. There is always something good in everyone."

When I heard this, I told F: "Please ask the dean if she has a daughter and if that daughter is raped, if she would forgive so easily."

The other "grave and disturbing" development is the recent appointment of Dr. M as chief resident of the orthopedic department. Asks Ursua: "What is the message of the department... in making (Dr. M) chief resident? That they do not care that (Dr. M) has been accused of raping (a student)? That sexually abusing (a student) deserves a promotion?"

Note, too, that as chief resident Dr. M will have direct supervision over F and has the power to destroy her career even before it has begun.

* * *

SHORTLY after the meeting with new dean, F suffered a relapse of the breakdown she went through soon after the assault. She was sunk in depression for several days and missed her classes. She is currently on medication.

Life at PGH has since been far from easy for F. When she walks through wards and nurses' stations, she can hear whispers of "That's her, that's the one who's been raped," and can almost "feel" the stares she gets behind her back. Once, while assisting in an operation, the surgeon, who, you guessed it, is connected with the ortho department, asked if she wasn't getting tired with what he had asked her to do. When F said she didn't mind, the doctor whispered in her ear: "Well, I was just afraid that you'd complain again."

During the hearings and investigations, Dr. M's partisans tried to make it appear that what transpired between him and F was consensual. Their primary tactic in doing so was to assail F's innocence, claiming that by the way she dressed and even danced (she was part of PGH's dance troupe), she could not be the virgin she claimed to be the night of the assault.

But really, what does that have to do with the price of bananas? In one such hearing, the former director of PGH, Dr. Juan Pablo Nanagas, testified that, and I'm paraphrasing him, "It should not have happened... the drinking, the partying, should not have taken place inside PGH, and doctors should not be consorting with students."

Why not just give up the fight and drop your dream of becoming a doctor? I asked F.

Her reply: "If I did that, I would not really be escaping my past. I would be running away for the rest of my life."

Another for the Lions

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

SINCE the end of the World War II, historic properties in the country started to disappear, falling prey to demolition, neglect or renovations that altered them beyond recognition. A significant example was Binondo from which, building by building, site by site, the evidence of the Sangley and the Sangley *mestizo*'s heritage was gradually lost through private and public action and inaction. Much of the community's character, individuality and vitality is gone. At present Binondo looks no more than a poorer version of Hong Kong or Taiwan.

Historic properties unfortunately are not looked upon as a resource—and a limited one at that. They are subject to complex pressures and issues of modern society, and often their preservation appears to be at odds with the immediate needs for housing or infrastructure or development.

Unhappily there seems to be still another building that will soon fall prey to the wrecker's ball. This is the Delgado building, a marvelous Art Deco structure, at the corner of Leon Guinto and Estrada, presently occupied by the Instituto Cervantes. It was wonderfully restored some four or five years ago and remains an outstanding example of adaptive re-use. If I remember correctly, it has received awards for the restoration although it was the Instituto that did it and not us.

Now it appears that the owners would like to demolish it and build a high rise in its place. Well, what can we do? First of all, if the Delgados need the money, who are we to argue? Second, I doubt if the Philippine government will rise to the occasion and buy the property. (Yeah, okay so I can dream, can't I?) Third, the Heritage Bill is somewhere in the Senate or the House, gathering moss or lichen or whatever one gathers in the tropics. *Anay*, probably.

Looking back, the bill was probably a rather quixotic undertaking of the Heritage Conservation Society when it was first established in 1999. It was also a very simple piece of legislation that sought to protect the architectural heritage of this country so that another incident like the destruction of the Jai-Alai Building could be prevented. Anyway, it took at least a year for the bill to be prepared, drawing inspiration from the national trust organizations of the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom.

When it was finally finished, a group of us turned it over to Sen. Loren Legarda who, if I remember correctly, was a member of the culture and education committee of the Senate. Her office then turned it over it seems to Sen. Tessie Oreta who was chair of the education committee. I remember lobbying with Sen. Gringo Honasan together the formidable Narda Camacho. Ditto Sen. Jun Magsaysay.

The chair of HCS at the time, architect Augusto Villalon, took charge of the House and, again if I remember correctly, it was Rep. Butch Abad who promised to shepherd it through the House.

Then Edsa II happened. At that point, we lay low for a while and so did the bill lay since Senator Oreta had fallen into disrepute (temporarily anyway).

When things got back to normal there were hearings and word came back that the National Museum people and Chair Ambeth Ocampo at the National Historical Institute were vehemently against it. I couldn't see why, until Ocampo mentioned that the bill intended to take over functions of the National Museum and the NHI.

This was certainly not the bill I remembered, so I got a hold of a copy of the new bill under discussion. Lo and behold! Right enough, somebody, someplace had proceeded to mangle the poor thing beyond recognition. Not only that, in its present form there is no way the Museum director or the NHI chair will agree, and I cannot blame them.

I will repeat that the original bill sought to protect and conserve the Philippine Architectural Heritage. A council composed of architects and historians would be formed under the aegis of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to decide which buildings were to be preserved. There were to be incentives and a list attached of these outstanding landmarks.

More than two years have passed since the hearings first started, and there has been little or no progress. I have given Marinduque Rep. Edmundo Reyes a copy of the original bill and hope that this time whatever malevolent dwarfs and other creepy crawlies there are will not be induced to add archaeological explorations and Chinese ceramic porcelain in its radius of responsibility.

For the sake of history as well, let me add that it was Sen. Edgardo Angara who first suggested that it was necessary to establish a lobby group like the Heritage Conservation Society to preserve these structures. We would have wanted to call it the National Trust but it seems that in this country only government agencies can use the word "national."

We do have certain social or perhaps political problems that prevent any conservation group from prospering. First, the idea of affordable housing in this country seems to consist of building those 30 sq m boxes one after the other with the barest of necessities in them and locating them in some far-flung area. The idea of remodeling buildings in the inner city that are in arrears on their taxes has not been considered as far as I know. Second, I don't know that strengthening community pride has ever been a priority on the national agenda. Because certainly architectural heritage would and should be a source of pride for the people if anyone cared enough. With elections just round the corner again, who among our illustrious lawmakers will bother?

The real score on F4

YOUNG BLOOD

Charisse V. Villamar

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I DON'T think anyone consciously decides to become a fan. You do not wake up one day and decide to plaster the wall with the smiling face of a pop star. Even teenagers have to go through a process that I would call the "path of fanhood" before they start pasting posters or stickers somewhere. Becoming a fan takes a certain degree of commitment to invest time and effort on someone who is usually inaccessible.

Fanhood may be the lonely and somewhat alien cousin of love. When people fall in love, they become selfless creatures who suddenly find themselves offering their last slice of pizza or the last seat on a bus to their partners even if they are hungry or tired. Fans exhibit the same symptoms: they would skip a meal to save money to see their idol in a concert or buy a pop star's CD. Being a fan, like love, requires a lot of sacrifice. But because fans may not have seen their object of affection in person, much less know his personality beyond what is shown on television, in the movies or on a paper, fanhood is a lopsided, somewhat skewed version of love.

When I was 16, I fell down in adoration of Brad Pitt. I truly believed we were meant to be together. I bought every magazine that had him on the cover or carried even just a brief article on my beloved future honey. I mentally calculated the age difference and created a scenario where we would finally meet in a coffee shop in Los Angeles after I reached the age of consent.

I absolutely did not want to have anything to do with guys my age. They were too awkward, too gawky and too young.

It was Brad Pitt for me. I even sent him a recording of my voice with a love song to introduce a connection between him and his future girlfriend.

That celebrity crush was as real to me as it was to my friends who were in love with their boyfriends. It took a few years and an actress named Jennifer Aniston to shake me off my infatuation completely. It was that bad and it was that real to me.

After finally dusting off the last remnants of Brad from my system, I looked back at the young me with an amused and somewhat embarrassed eye. I had probably missed out on a lot of the normal teenage "*kilig*" moments because of my intense fixation on a Hollywood star who could seduce a movie audience just by walking into a scene.

College, family and then work eventually ground me into a sensible woman whose goals were more realistic, like starting a career and finding a partner in life's journey. I studied diligently in college, became deeply involved in sports, had my share of infatuation and flirtation with "reachable men" and graduated with good grades.

After college, I immediately landed a job with a promising career path. I was a woman with a plan and the "Brad years" became a distant memory.

One day in the office, I heard a colleague humming a familiar melody. The song was in Mandarin so I couldn't understand it. And I could not comprehend why it was being shown often on the MTV and MYX channels. Above all, I could not understand how a smart, professional, twentysomething consultant could put a group of long-haired guys who looked alike on her computer monitor.

I knew them collectively as "Meteor Garden." But my friend corrected me immediately: "Meteor Garden is the show and F4 are the actors."

"Long hair, Kaye?" I then told her in exasperation. "We don't find men with long hair sexy. We're in the Philippines, and Vin Diesel and sometimes even John Hall does it for girls."

After a couple of days of my teasing and mocking, my officemate handed me three CDs, each containing one episode of "Meteor Garden." "Here, borrow them, watch them and tell me what you think," she said.

I decided to humor her and I was also slightly curious about all the hoopla, I took the CDs home and invited my sister to watch them with me. Each episode ran for an hour.

After watching the first one, I had to admit that the men of F4 had very distinctive, individual looks. Okay, they may have longer hair than the average Filipino male, but their features were different from each other.

Another thing I realized was that their dialogue was quite funny and engaging. There was hardly a moment that reminded me that I was watching actors acting and not characters in a real situation. There were no hair pulling, cat fights, crocodile tears and high octave screeching. It was just a light drama/comedy with no pretensions to giving any complex messages.

When I finished watching the third disc, I felt very light. I had a tiring day at work but as I was preparing to go to bed, I did not feel wired up at all. The last TV series that had that effect on me was "Star Trek Voyager" which belonged to a totally different genre. I decided that liking any series that would make a frazzled working girl feel relaxed by the end of the day was worth being labeled as cheesy or "*baduy*."

I returned the discs to my officemate, slightly embarrassed and a little repentant. I endured her smug, know-it-all look when I told her I was buying my own "Meteor Garden" set.

And so it began. Just as Alice tumbled down the rabbit hole, I found myself falling in slow motion back to the path of fanhood.

To relax after a particularly demanding day at work, I listen to F4 music, without understanding a word of what they are singing. Before I turn in for the night, I watch their concert with my sister and close my eyes while imagining Jerry Yan's dimples and smile. I still work as efficiently, play as hard and laugh as loud, but now there is something new inside me, like a code that only I understand. I have discovered F4 and I am happier because of it.

I have reassessed my theory about fanhood. Being a fan is not a first-stage delusion or a projection of a person's unfulfilled dreams to another. Like the men of F4, a fan has a distinct personality. Fanhood does not automatically mean that a person does not find pleasure in his own life and must therefore live the life he wants through his idol. Being a fan may mean paying P2,000 to watch F4's concert, drenched and wet like a rag doll, or singing their music while driving home and learning to appreciate the melody instead of the lyrics.

A fan can be a wife and mother who is torn between going out for dinner with her husband on their wedding anniversary and watching the last episode of a Jerry Yan mini-series where he finally breaks off with the cursed leading lady. A fan can also be a person who is just at peace with the fact that the trappings, the labels and even the mockery do not matter.

It is not the best singer, the best dancer or the best-looking idol who matters, but the hearts that are made glad even for a moment by men who have a dream and work hard to fulfill it. I would rather be inspired by hardworking and, yes, very good-looking young men than aging and redundant politicians who would serve their constituents better if they spent as much time at work as they do on childish squabbles and public posturing.

Charisse V. Villamar, 25, is a part-time pastries marketing officer and future NGO worker.

Useless overpass on Meralco Avenue

THERE is an ongoing construction on Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, to build a flyover across Julia Vargas Avenue. There are no signs indicating whether this is the project of the national or local government, perhaps out of shame for its total and absolute stupidity.

Meralco Avenue is a short stretch of road that starts from Ortigas Avenue in front of Meralco, and ends in Shaw Boulevard. This stretch is usually full of vehicles during rush hours, as there are several major bottlenecks at the following points: Meralco Avenue-Ortigas, Meralco Avenue-Onyx Street, Meralco Avenue-Julia Vargas, Meralco Avenue-Exchange Road, Meralco Avenue-Renaissance; Meralco Avenue-St. Paul Street, Meralco Avenue-Capt. Javier Street and Meralco Avenue-Shaw Boulevard, which are less than a kilometer apart.

By building an overpass at the corner of Meralco Avenue and Julia Vargas Avenue, you may eliminate the bottleneck there, but the cars have nowhere to go anyway since they will get stuck in the Meralco Avenue-Exchange Road, Meralco Avenue-Renaissance, Meralco Avenue-St. Paul Street, Meralco Avenue-Capt. Javier Street and Meralco Avenue-Shaw Boulevard bottlenecks, or if going in the opposite direction, at the Meralco bottleneck. We will just end up with cars being stuck in the flyover.

Undoubtedly, this flyover is costing taxpayers hundreds of millions of pesos with no useful purpose other than to line the pockets of crooked government officials.

No wonder our country is in such a mess. Government officials just want to grab anything and everything, without even bothering to hide their thievery anymore.

—ANTONIO C. PASTELERO,
Pastelero Law Office,
E-1503B Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City,

LETTERS PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Scantily clad dancers on Commonwealth

IN THE EARLY afternoon of Tuesday, Oct. 7, traffic began to build up from Manggahan Market along Commonwealth Avenue all the way to the Sandiganbayan. Judging by the huge crowd watching on the street and the nearby overpass, I assumed the build-up was caused by a major vehicular accident. I was very surprised when I saw that the reason for the commotion was more than a dozen scantily dressed women dancing provocatively in the middle of the island.

What made the sight even more shocking was that barangay and traffic officials, wearing their IDs, were the ones directing the whole spectacle. Using bullhorns and microphones, the men were prompting the women, "*Sige! Sayaw!* 1,2,3,4 ... *ocho ocho... ocho ocho!*" It was a floor show in broad daylight, in the middle of Commonwealth Avenue, in full view of children and students from the nearby Commonwealth Elementary School.

I wonder what could possibly make these women degrade themselves in such a manner. Whatever the reason, it was an absolutely distressing thing to see.

—SEAN H. DADO,
16-B Lilim St.,
Doña Petrona Subd.,
Barangay Pasong Tamo, QC

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Let us protest with our ballots

ANTI- ADMINISTRATION ralliers staged a rally at Makati City two weeks ago, calling for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. But it looks like they failed to name who they would replace them with.

As a simple citizen and a retiree, I am just wondering why they cannot wait for the next national elections in May next year when they can vent their anger most effectively. Then will be the best time for Filipinos to really change their political leaders in a legal way, rather than go the rounds of holding rallies, of which many are already tired.

I call upon everyone to respect the will of the majority, which will be expressed best in the ballots during elections. Majority rule is the essence of democracy which we should uphold if we want power to remain in the hands of the majority.

—FACUNDO S. TALLO,
182/ 6 North 1st St.,
Angela Village, Talon IV,
Las Piñas City

Misdirected ire at ECC

THIS is in reaction to Narciso Villanueva's letter (PDI, 11/15/03) titled, "ECC disability claim kicked around."

Allow us to explain our side on the issue raised. Our records show that on Sept. 12, 2003, the Employees' Compensation Commission (ECC) received the letter of appeal of Villanueva with incomplete documents. As a matter of procedure, on Sept. 25, 2003, we wrote to the Social Security System (SSS), the administering agency for employees' compensation claims for the private sector, requesting for elevation of the complete records of Villanueva so that an intelligent review of his claim can be made.

We received the complete records from the SSS on Nov. 4, 2003 and evaluation of the same has been completed on Nov. 12, 2003. At the moment, the case is scheduled for deliberation by the Technical Review Committee in its next meeting.

The decision of the SSS denying the claim of Villanueva three times on various dates is not within the control of the ECC. The ECC is vested with appellate jurisdiction under Presidential Decree 626, as amended to review and decide claims for compensation denied by the SSS or the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), as the case may be. The administering agencies have original jurisdiction to initially evaluate the compensability of claims anchored on work-related contingencies.

It seems that the root of Villanueva's ire against this office is the Sept. 25, 2003 letter of the ECC addressed to the SSS. The tenor of the letter gave him the impression that the ECC is remanding the case for re-evaluation of the claim when it has already been denied three times by the SSS branch office. We wish to emphasize that it is the standard procedure of the ECC to request the SSS (or GSIS) main office to take a second look at the decision of denial of its branch offices. It has been the experience of the ECC that in some claims denied by the branch office, the main office would reverse the same after re-evaluation.

This office is not remiss in its mandate. As the government agency tasked under PD 626, as amended, to implement this social legislation, it assumes a liberal stance in interpreting the law in favor of the workingman.

—ELMOR D. JURIDICO,
executive director,
Employees' Compensation Commission, 3/F ECC Bldg.,
355 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati City

Old venues of large-scale graft and corruption

PRESIDENTIAL Decree 777 requires all national government agencies and offices to return to the national treasury all cash balances at the end of the calendar year or on Dec. 31 of each year. And if this decree is strictly followed, chances are that the national government deficit would be minimized, if not altogether eliminated.

There are deficits in government if the following circumstances are present:

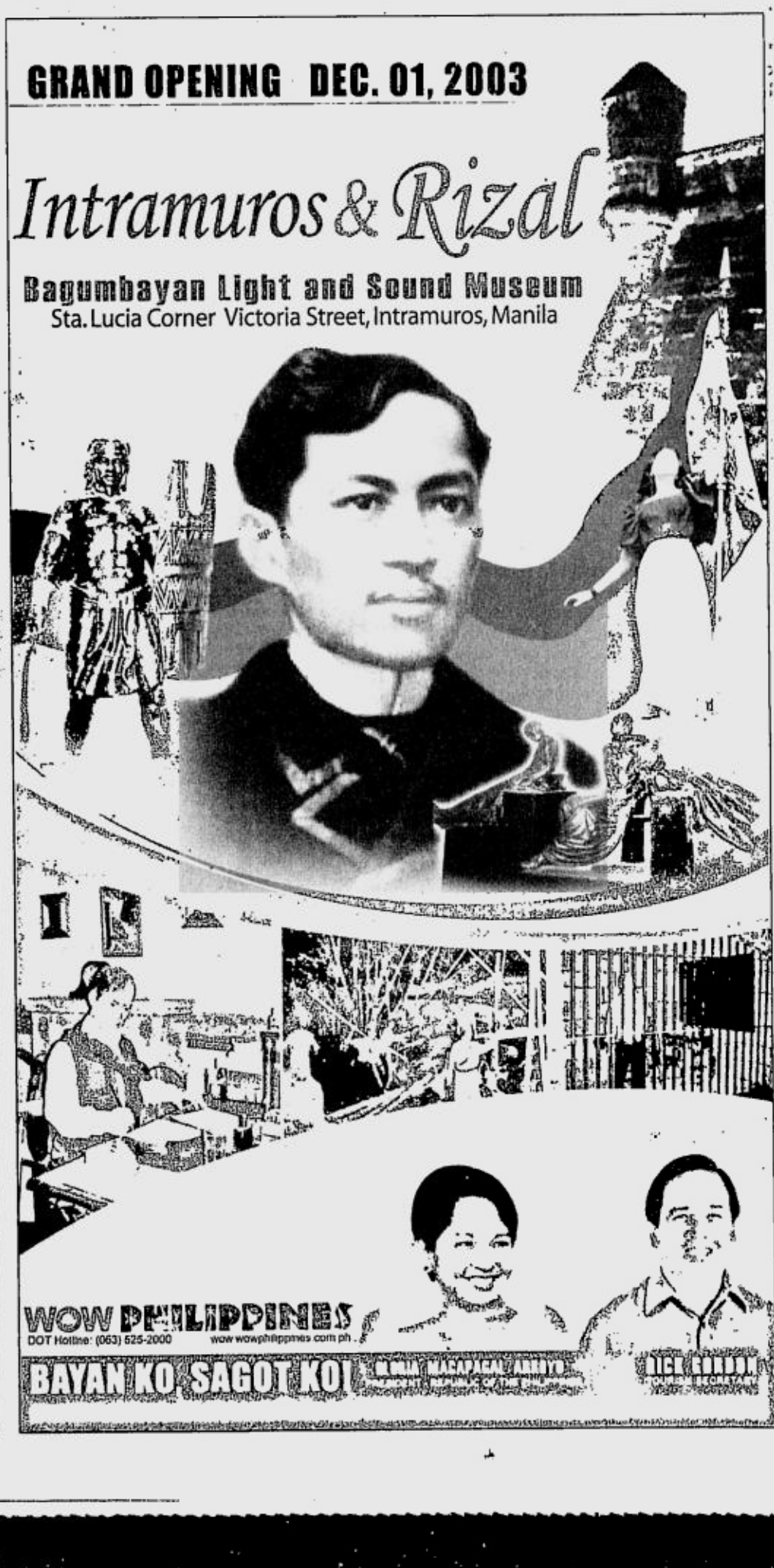
- Spending more than what the government has received in the form of revenues and taxes.
- Decline in revenue collections of the BIR, Customs and other collecting agencies.
- Not returning cash balances to the national treasury at the end of the calendar year.
- Pocketing of collections through falsification of public documents.
- Overpricing of infrastructure contracts mostly on horizontal construction projects.
- Ghost deliveries of supplies and materials as well as services.
- Unliquidated cash advances amounting to billions of pesos existing in the Books of Accounts of the national government for a number of years or decades already.

A modus operandi is to consider all cash balances spent at the end of the year by obligating ghost deliveries of supplies and materials or services to make it appear that there is a zero cash balance in the cash books or depository accounts of national agencies with banks. The cash balances go to the pockets of corrupt officials and employees of the national agencies concerned.

If only the auditing units assigned to these agencies do their jobs as mandated by the Constitution, this modus operandi would have been unearthed and the huge deficit of government avoided. And as a result of audit findings, the allotment releases by the Department of Budget and Management should be lesser by the total amount of cash balances not returned to the national treasury at the end of the calendar year. By the same token, graft and corruption in agencies in the provinces would have been discovered and the culprits punished.

If those concerned could look into this matter, they would be discovering much larger scales of graft and corruption in the administration and the perennial deficits could be wiped out without imposing more taxes.

—GODOFREDO O. PETEZA SR.,
JP Rizal Street, Barangay Camambugan,
Daet, Camarines Norte



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Attack wounds vice mayor, kills pal

THE VICE mayor of Bugallon, Pangasinan was wounded while his companion was killed when armed men opened fire at their vehicle in Barangay Cayanga in the town on Thursday night.

Supt. Rolando Magno, special operations group director of the Pangasinan police, said Vice Mayor Ernesto Mata, who was driving his Nissan Frontier pickup, was on his way home when at least three suspects fired at his vehicle.

Mata suffered from a bullet wound in the right arm while his companion, Samuel Agbuya, 54, died from bullet wounds in different parts of the body.

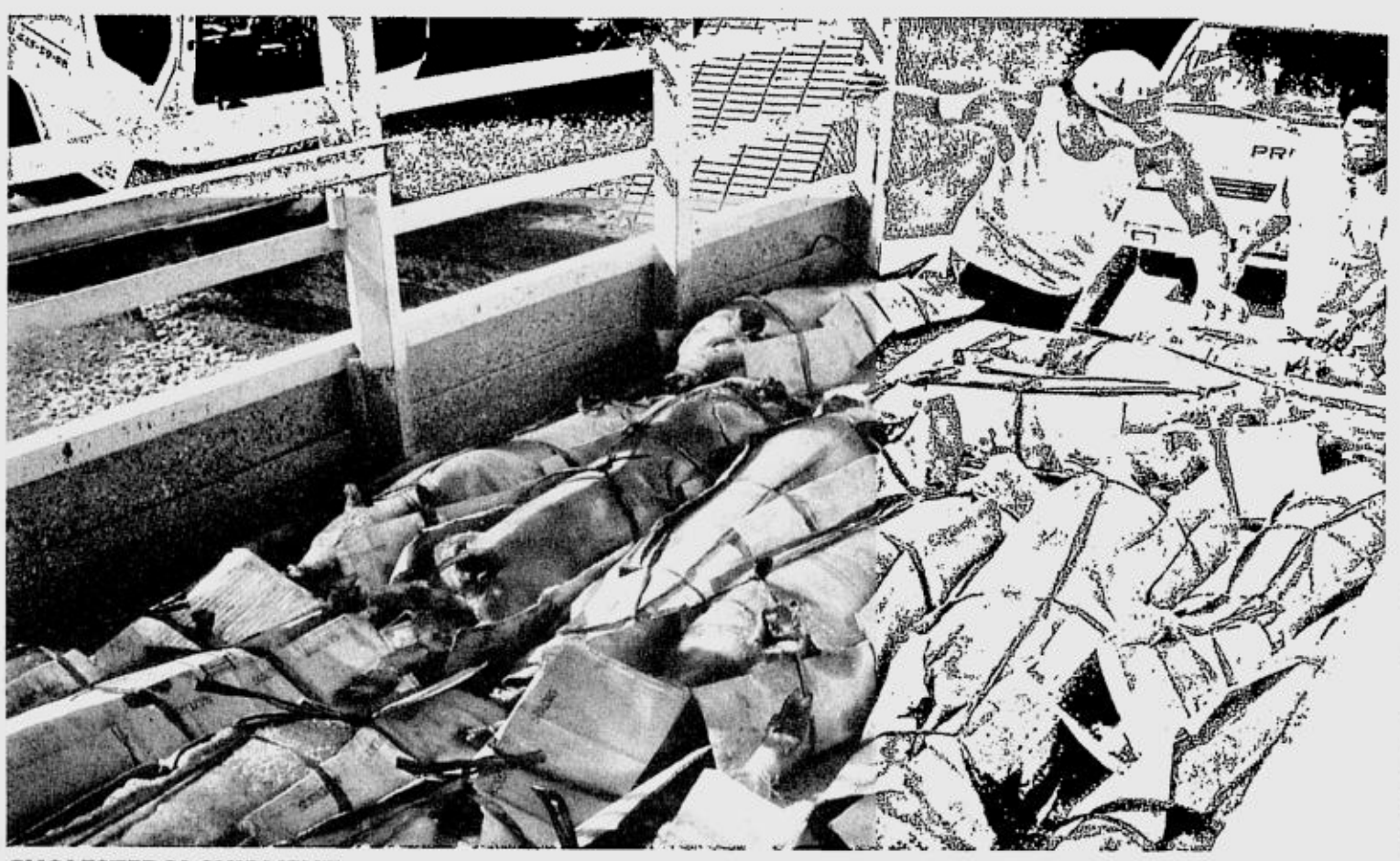
Magno said Mata was saved because the gunmen aimed their guns at the front passenger seat where he usually sits. He said Mata's vehicle had 11 bullet holes.

"His driver alighted in another village so he drove the pickup while Agbuya, who was sitting at the back seat, transferred to the front passenger seat," Magno said.

Mata managed to drive the pickup for at least 50 meters and hide in a house nearby.

Magno said one of Mata's companions, Pedro Ramos, escaped unhurt but police could not locate him.

The motive for the attack is still unknown. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



CHOLESTEROL SHIPMENT TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
A truckload of roasted pigs makes its way through tight security during the recently concluded 18th Advertising Congress held in Baguio City.

Aborted sale of jeepney led to Maguindanao slays

COTABATO CITY—A failed jeepney deal led to Thursday's massacre that claimed the lives of five people (not six as police had earlier reported), including a public schoolteacher, in Barira town in Maguindanao, police said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Isnaji Bantala, chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) police, said the Maricor family had earlier offered to buy the Omar family's passenger jeep but the deal had bogged down for still unknown reasons.

It was not clear how a failed deal could trigger the bloodbath but Bantala said the two families also figured in a serious misunderstanding in the past.

But Barira Mayor Alex Tomawis said the previous dispute, which started with the death in Quiapo a few months ago of a Hadji Esmael, a relative of the Omar's, had already been settled and all was going well for the two families.

"The issue of the death of Hadji Esmael in Quiapo has long been settled," said Tomawis.

Supt. Jun Salilama, ARMM police spokesperson, said the jeep, which became object of the rekindled dispute, had been taken in police custody because the suspects used this during the attack.

Salilama said the suspects, Angan and Paratong Omar, were now being hunted down.

Witnesses had positively identified the two as the ones who led a group of 10 armed men that fired at a wedding planning session involving the Maricor family in Barangay Rumirimbang on Thursday morning.

Killed during the attack were Johnny Maricor and his brother Ruben, Noraima Maricor and Eskak Soliman and Normallah Mamatong, a teacher in Barira and a resident of Cotabato City. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cop slain in Bataan raid on kidnappers hailed hero

ANGELES CITY—*"Isa kang bayani* (You are a hero)."

Placards that his neighbors made from slabs and old calendars bear that recognition for PO1 Joselito Esguerra.

Far down the road of the squatters' community in Purok I, Barangay San Nicolas here is a chapel where his colleagues have streamed to bid Esguerra, 31, farewell.

The remains of their Esguerra, slain in a clash with the country's most notorious kidnap-for-ransom syndicate in Bataan on Nov. 20, lies in a white casket draped with the Philippine flag.

The gang leader, Dr. Roberto Obeles Yap, and three of his men were killed in that gunfight in Dinalupihan, Bataan.

On Wednesday, President Macapagal-Arroyo joined the village's wake for Esguerra whom she hailed as a "hero" in the government's battle against heinous crimes.

Ms Macapagal led the rites for his posthumous promotion to Police Officer 2.

In the announcement read during the rites, Esguerra was commended for "acts of conspicuous courage and gallantry in the face of armed enemy."

In the order, Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, said Esguerra "willingly made the ultimate sacrifice of offering his life to ensure that the mission of the raiding team is carried out."

PO2 Emet Nunag, the leader of the city's Special Weapons and Tactics Team to which Esguerra belonged, said they kept the battle going as Yap tried to escape and even as Esguerra lay dead next to them.

"It was painful seeing him there dead but we pressed on," Nunag said.

Esguerra's friend, PO1 Juan Carlos Bustos, said he wanted to immediately secure Esguerra's body. "He was in the line of fire so I could not get near him. My tears swelled as I saw him," Bustos said.

"We still cannot accept that we lost him," Nunag said.

Marina, Esguerra's 63-year-old mother, said she has stopped shedding tears for her only son, the fourth in the brood of five.

"Nonoy (Esguerra) made a sense in his brief life," Marina said.

The President gave Esguerra's mother P100,000 as burial assistance. The Angeles City government and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce gave also P100,000 each.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Ombudsman suspends town execs over corpse case

TANDAG, Surigao del Sur—For forcibly taking the corpse of a woman during a wake on Aug. 14, the top two executives of this capital town had been suspended for 60 days by the Ombudsman-Mindanao but several other officials in connection with the incident had been cleared.

The Department of Interior and Local Government in Caraga would implement the order, dated Nov. 24, against Mayor Marybeth Ty-Delgado and Vice Mayor Alexander Pimentel.

The suspension was triggered by a complaint from Erlita Buenaflor, daughter, and Angeles Buenaflor, daughter-in-law, of Trinidad Buenaflor.

Trinidad died in the first week of July.

The surviving relatives of Trinidad decided to have her body embalmed for a month because some of their relatives had yet to come home from the United States.

The body was kept in a coffin at the family's ancestral home in Barangay Balilahan.

But after more than a month, the corpse remained unburied, eliciting complaints from neighbors because it was then beginning to smell.

Erlita said the family was still awaiting the arrival of her mother's sister from America so the body could not be buried yet.

Erlita then contracted the funeral parlor to preserve her mother's body for 15 days more.

But the neighbors were becoming restive and had sought the help of local officials.

It was during this time that the complaint against Delgado and other officials took shape.

In her complaint with the Ombudsman, Erlita said Mayor Delgado offered to help in extending her mother's burial if she will open the road, which some residents had illegally constructed on their land.

She said she refused the offer and Delgado wrote her.

Erlita said the mayor directed them to bury the remains of Trinidad as soon as possible because "it injures and endangers the health and safety of the people living at Sitio Luha, Balilahan."

When she refused, Erlita said Delgado and Pimentel led "the forcible taking of the remains" of her mother. *Bert Pacate, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

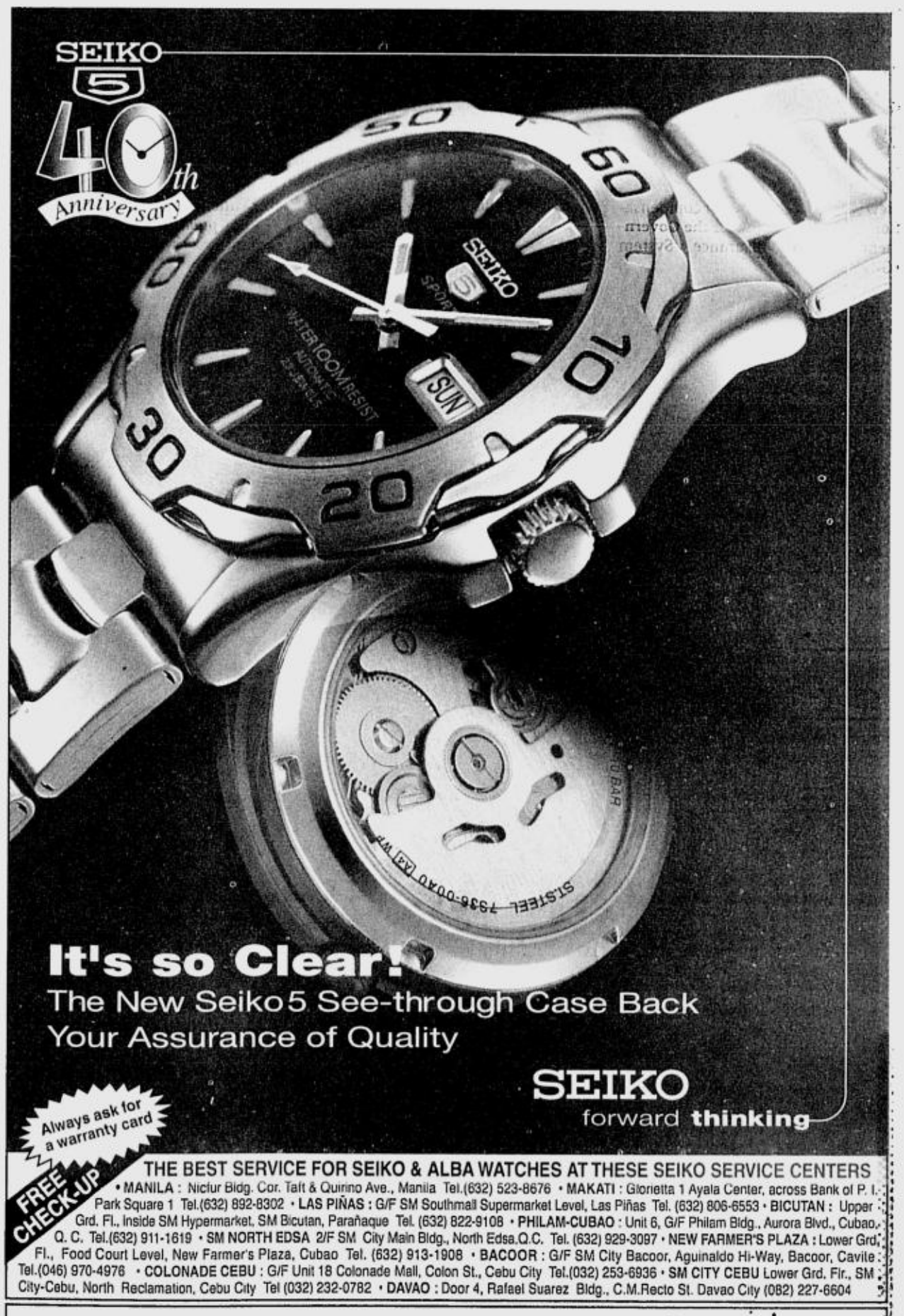
Earthquake, storm bring P120M loss

TACLOBAN CITY—The Office of Civil Defense in Eastern Visayas has reported that close to P120 million worth of infrastructure was damaged due to the typhoon and earthquake that hit the region over the last two weeks.

The two calamities also resulted in the death of two persons, one of whom was a five-month-old baby.

Adriano Fuego, OCD regional director, said Eastern Samar and Northern Samar, two of the poorest provinces in the region, suffered the most.

The typhoon that hit the region on Nov. 13 and the earthquake on Nov. 19 resulted in P117.9 million in combined damages in the two provinces, mainly in the agriculture and fishery sectors, Fuego said. *Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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Reds tell FPJ: Bare stand on Left issues

LUCENA CITY—If movie action king and candidate for president Fernando Poe Jr. wants support from the communists, he should present a clear stand on various issues, according to communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal.

"What's his position on the stalled peace talks between the National Democratic Front and the government? About the anti-people globalization policy of the government, the need for a genuine land reform and the rampant human rights violations by the police and the military?" Rosal said in a mobile phone interview in reaction to Poe's declaration of his candidacy.

He added, "FPJ can't escape declaring his positions on these issues. The militants and progressive forces and even the revolutionary movement are now anxiously waiting for him to do so."

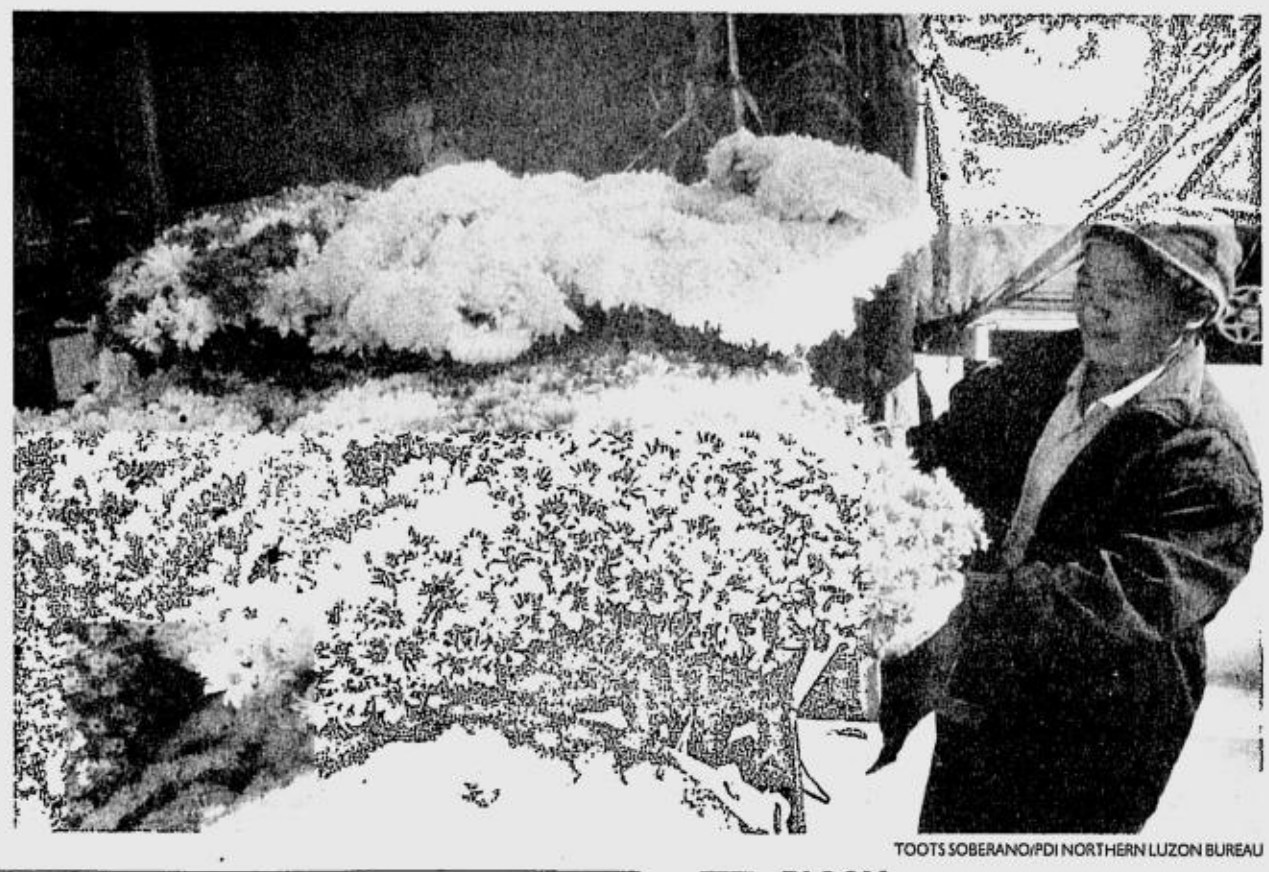
The spokesperson of the rival underground communist group, also urged Poe to formally declare his platform of government.

"Poe should end assumptions as to his political platform," Patricio Ramirez, Partido ng Manggagawang Pilipino spokesperson, said.

"It remains to be seen whether FPJ the man will be an incarnation of the FPJ the actor who is hero of the people onscreen," Ramirez said.

He warned that Poe's presidential candidacy "can so easily turn out to be a bomb instead of a blockbuster for the 'masa' for he can be so easily co-opted by reactionaries that everyday are gravitating around an apparent winner."

"The battle now begins for the soul of FPJ. He will be pulled in one direction by the pressure of his proletarian supporters toward populist reforms. But the opportunist politicians who want to use him to wrest power from the administration will pull him in the other direction," he added. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BLOOM
The climate in Baguio City proves itself flower-friendly again as stalls selling different types of flowers bloom again in the country's summer capital.

ROUNDUP

PNP warns vs reb attacks

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The Philippine National Police last week directed all its units nationwide to tighten its security in preparation for the commemoration of Bonifacio Day on Nov. 30. In a circular to all provincial directors, Deputy Director Enrique Galang, PNP director for operations, noted that the yearly observance of the birthday of Andres Bonifacio, "is usually marked with protest activities by militant, sectoral and cause-oriented groups." He also alerted all police stations for the possible attacks of the New People's Army. Nov. 30 also coincides with the founding anniversary of Kabataang Makabayan, the youth arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines. Galang said police should "closely monitor economic key points, critical infrastructure, airports, public places and areas of convergence."

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

2 die in road crash

LAOAG CITY—Two women were killed and five others were hurt after a bus hit four parked jeeps and a tricycle here on Nov. 18. Police said Mary Rose Ulep, 28, and Catherine Agustin, 21, died instantly after they were hit by the jeeps that the Metro Manila-bound RCJ bus had hit. Reports said the bus was on its way to its terminal here when its driver lost control of the vehicle. SPO4 Cesario Gabriel, the city's traffic chief, said bus driver Bernard Castillo fled. *Gerriahzon Sebastian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NPA rebel slain

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—The Army reported killing a New People's Army rebel in an encounter Wednesday in Dingalan, Aurora. Col. Jovenal Narcise, commander of the 702nd Infantry Brigade, identified the slain rebel as Jose Buendia alias Ka Joe of the NPA's Nueva Ecija provincial party committee's Guerrilla Front 1. Narcise's report said Army soldiers wounded several other rebels in the 10-minute gunfight that broke out at 5:30 a.m. A .22 cal. rifle was recovered from the encounter site. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

21 hurt in mishap

BAGUIO CITY—Twenty-one people were hurt Wednesday when a bus bound for Baguio plunged into a ravine in Kapangan, Benguet, some five hours from here, the Office of Civil Defense said. The Dangwa bus was negotiating a slippery incline at Sitio Buyot in Barangay Balacbac in Kapangan when it fell 129 feet below. The injured were taken to the Benguet General Hospital in the capital town of La Trinidad for treatment.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

WB funds project

CANDON CITY—The city government and the Land Bank of the Philippines have agreed to finance the P70-million drainage master plan project for nine barangays here using a World Bank loan. Mayor Grace Singson said the project, which will begin early next year, includes the repair and improvement of damaged roads and bridges and the construction of a drainage network to minimize flooding during the rainy season.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Drug pusher killed

NARVACAN, Ilocos Sur—Armed men gunned down a suspected drug pusher on Tuesday in Barangay San Jose here. Police said Ronel Damasco, 33, was driving his tricycle on the national highway when the suspects shot and killed him. He died before reaching the Central Ilocos Sur District Hospital here.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Huk member slain

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—A suspected member of the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan (HMB) was killed while five others were arrested after an encounter with police in San Luis town on Wednesday. Reports reaching this camp identified the fatality as Carlo Sanchez, 50, while his arrested companions were Noel and Joel Simbulan, Roel Ramos, Jovy Soliman, and Justin Danico. Seized from them were two US carbine rifles, five rifle grenades, an AK-47 assault rifle, an Armalite M-16 rifle, and various kinds of ammunition. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Ateneo homecoming

THE ATENEO de Zamboanga University celebrates its annual grand homecoming on Dec. 5, 6 and 7. The Jesuit-run Ateneo in Western Mindanao was established in 1912 and was declared a university on Aug. 20, 2001. It was granted a fully autonomous status by the Commission on Higher Education. For details, contact Carmencita Macasinag at telephone no. (062)991-0841 local 4600.

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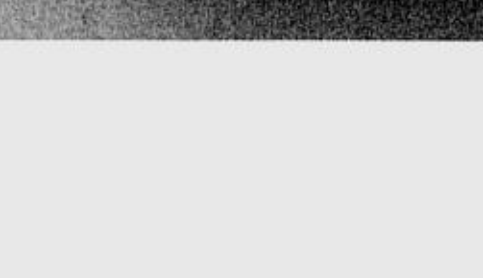

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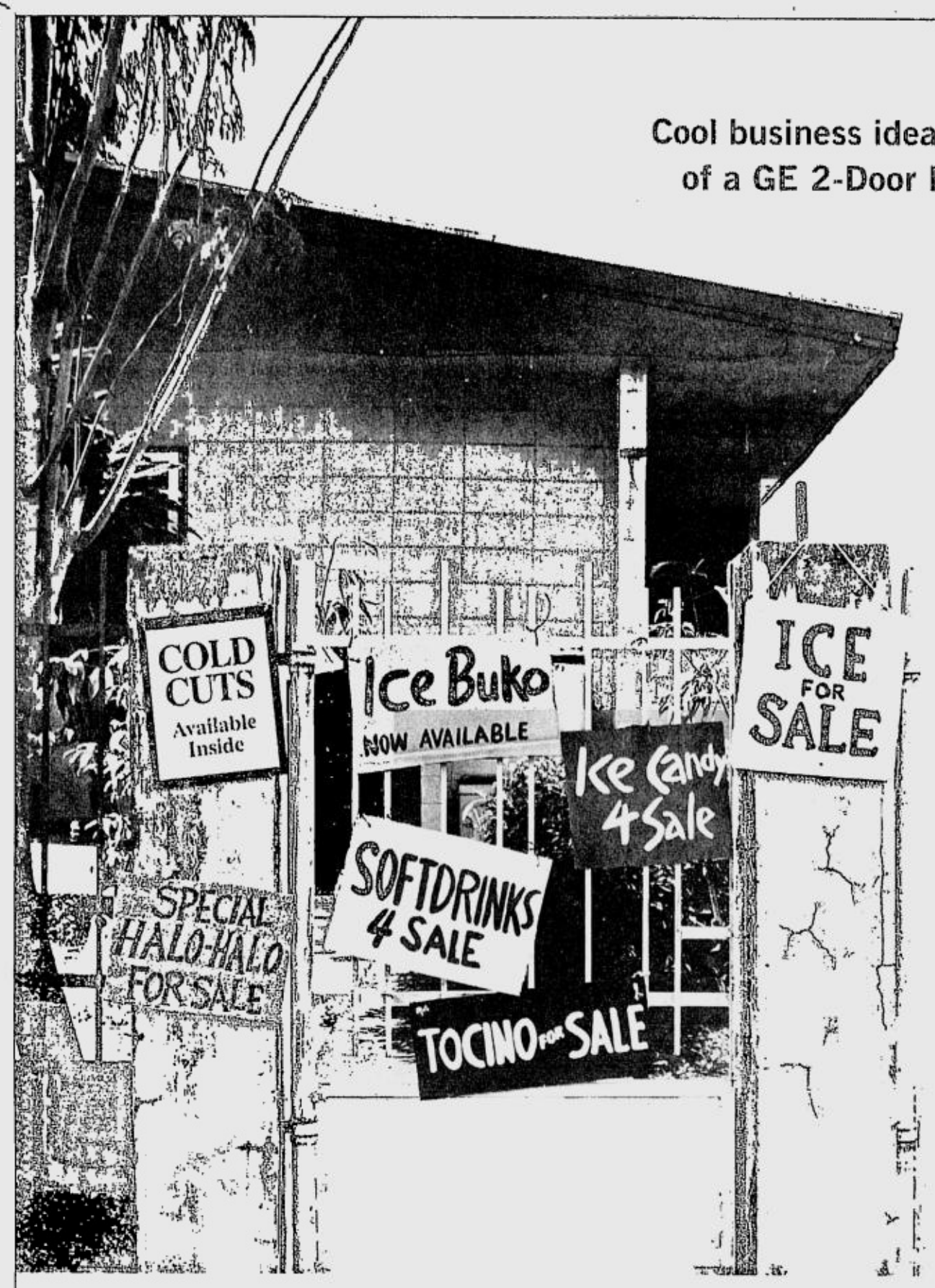

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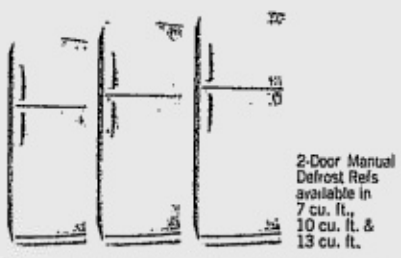

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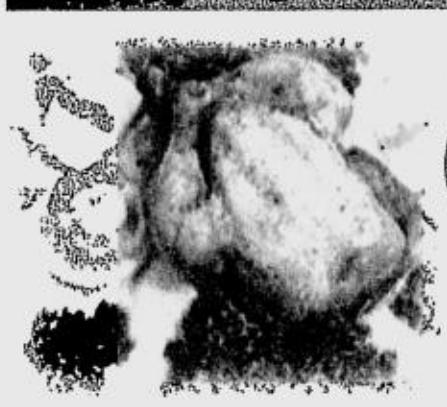

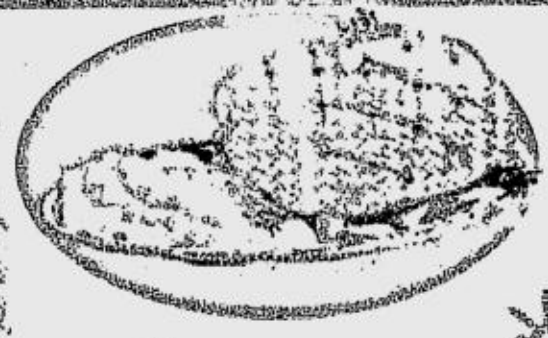

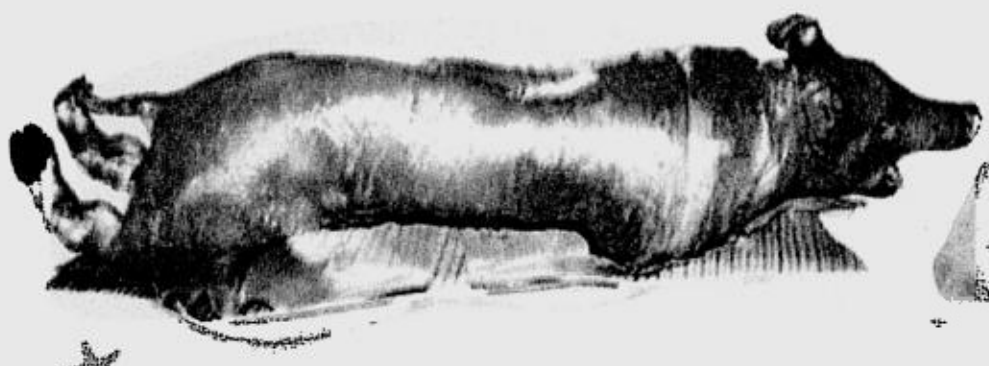

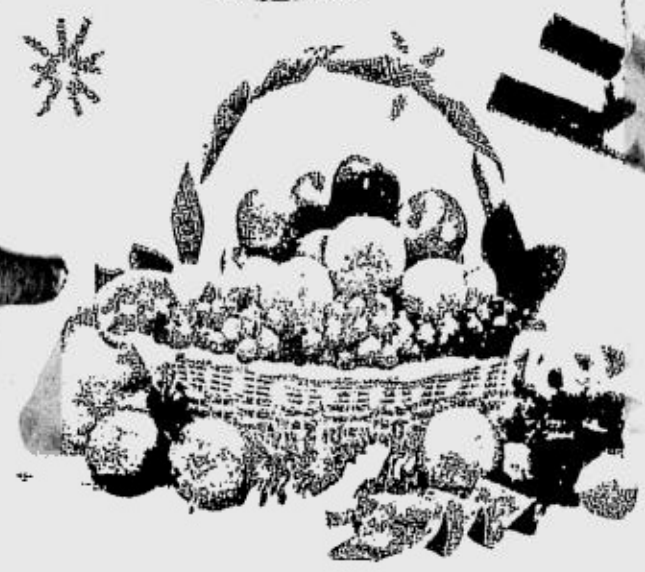

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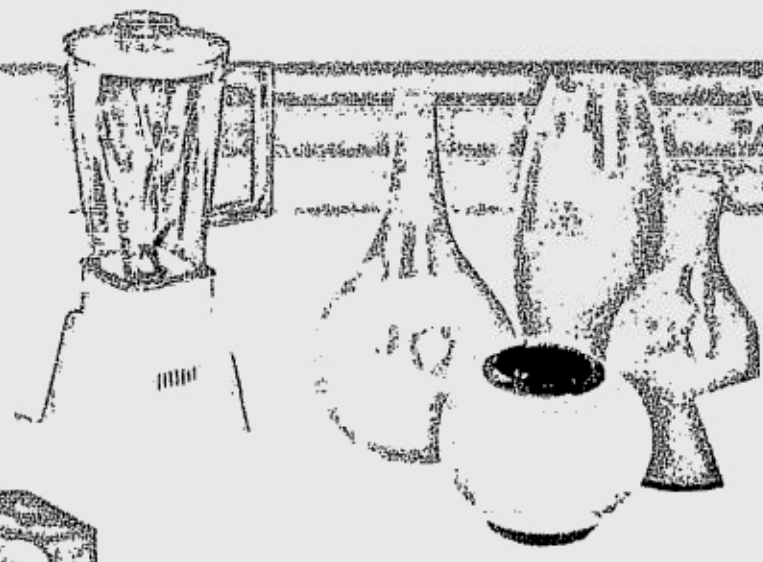

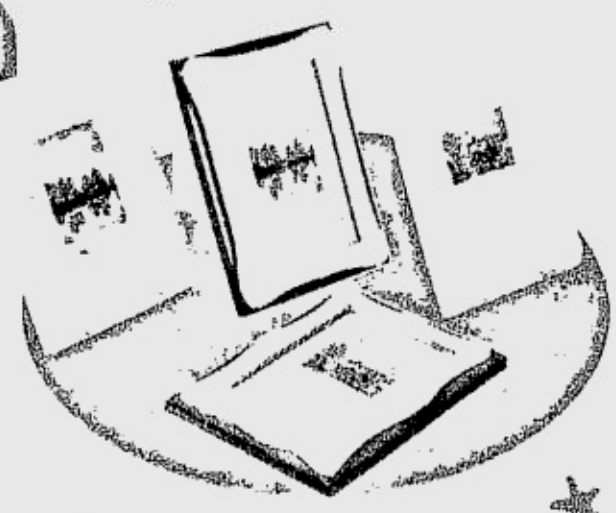

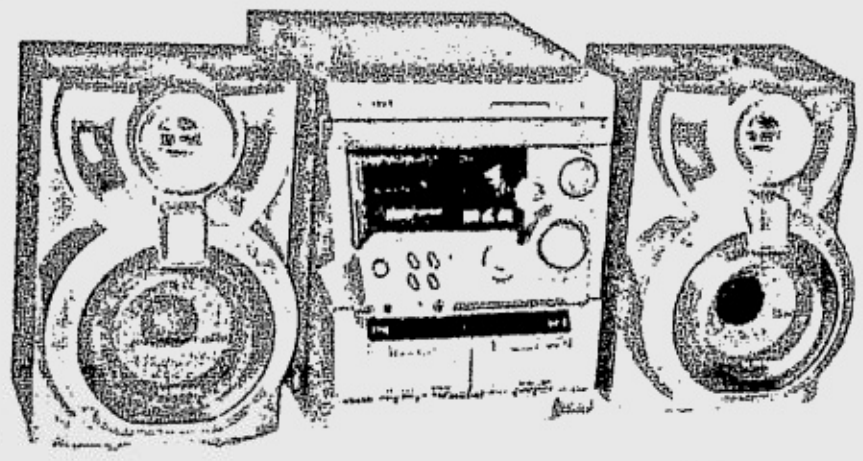

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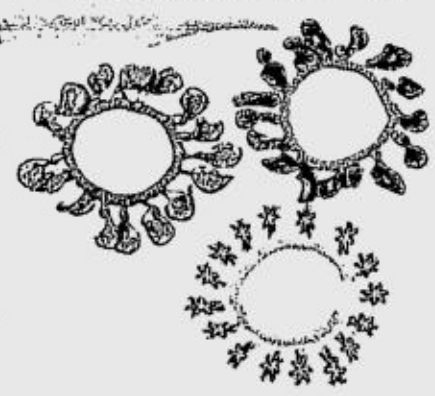

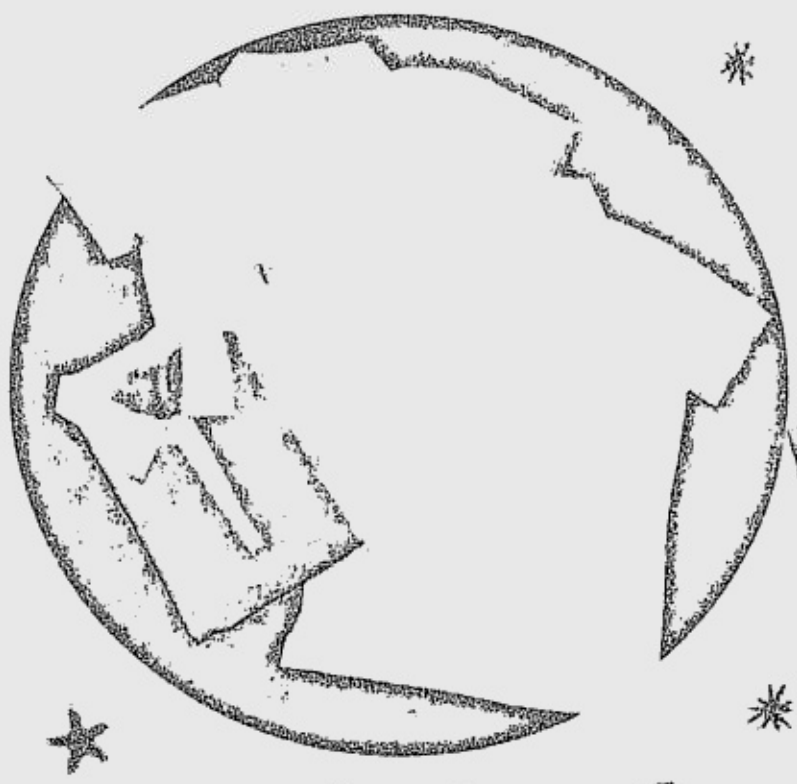

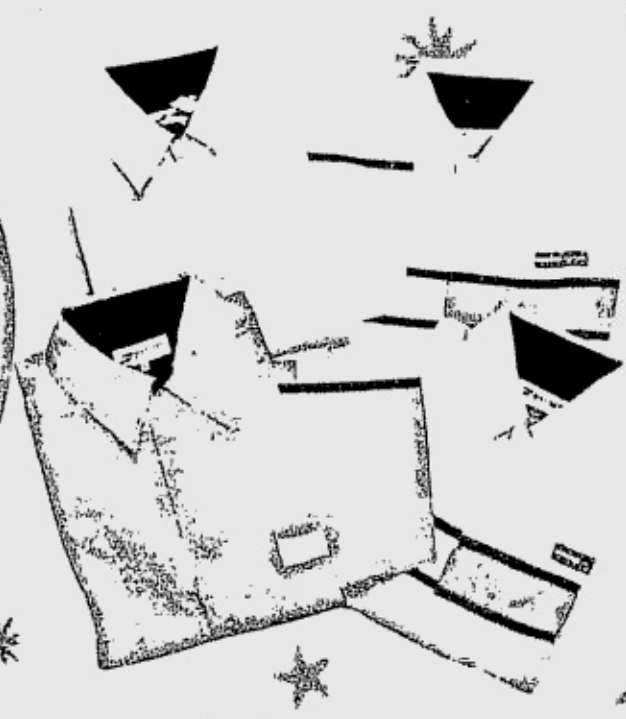

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Waray-waray defended

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Tacloban City

THE WARAY-WARAY, the people who speak the Bisayan language of Leyte and Samar, remains a scorned linguistic group at present. Thus, many native speakers of this language prefer to hide their ethnic identity outside the region by speaking another language, oftentimes Tagalog with either a heavy or queer accent.

The ethnic label was always "Waray-waray" (with stress on all syllables), to refer to both the people and the predominant language of Eastern Visayas. At least, the label stayed that way until the circa-1960s movie "Waray-waray" starring the late Nida Blanca, which became the benchmark spoof on the Leyte-Samar people and their culture.

The movie and its theme song, the title of which was grossly mispronounced by the Tagalog actors, made them the cultural scapegoats for the underside of the Filipino nature.

Somehow, in recent decades, half of the two same-word label got lost or was dropped, and the word "Waray" (with stress on the second syllable) was appropriated to substitute for the original label.

Of course, the literal meaning of the substitute half-label is "none" or "nothing," which connotes a desperate state or condition of hopelessness.

The dropping of half the label seems to have been influenced by former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, who carped against the negative meaning of the single word and cursorily dismissed the syllabication of the original two-word label for her people and their language.

'May ada-ada'

In her heyday, Imelda in fact attempted to substitute her artificial label with "may ada-ada." However, contrary to her wish, the "Waray-waray" tag stuck; "may ada-ada" was rejected as substitute label, and its meaning evolved to include persons who suffer from occasional loss of sanity.

So for now, "Waray-waray" or its shortened version "Waray" is largely perceived as an embarrassing label among the schooled segment of the Leyte-Samar population. Yet the persistence of this label somehow invites the suspicion that "Waray-waray" must have been an honorable identity and source of pride during ethnic times.

I tried to look into this line of thinking and found the following:

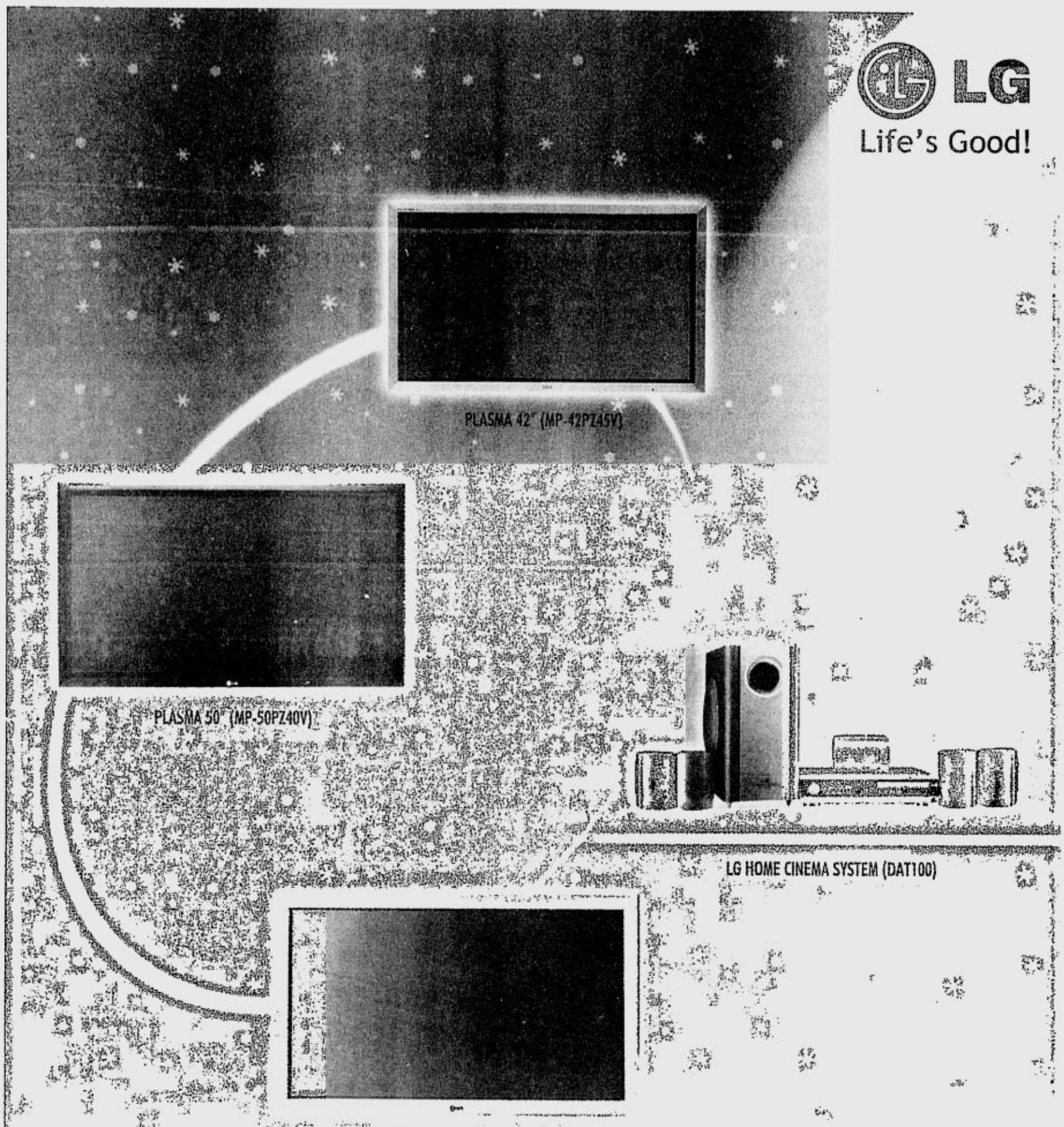
- In his work, "The Jesuits in the Philippines," Fr. Horacio de la Costa mentioned that the revered ruler of a part of Bohol at the Spanish contact was known as "Waray Tupung" (i.e., No Equal). This obviously Waray-waray chief probably ruled a territory that included the present towns of Ba to in Leyte and Bien Unido in Bohol, whose municipal governments are still disputing over the ownership of an islet and a shoal that are sites of a multi-million seaweed farm in the Camotes Sea.
- In his English translation of some Chinese manuscripts on Filipino-Chinese contacts during the pre-Spanish era, the late Dr. William Henry Scott mentioned about occasional raids on coastal parts of Imperial China by warriors from the Bisayas (i.e., Leyte-Samar). These raiders might have come from Kandaya (literally, "belonging to Big Boat"). Daya (Big Boat) seemed to be the moniker of a great Waray-waray confederate chief who once ruled over most, if not the whole, of Samar and some parts of Leyte. The Tagalogs, who were probable preys of Daya, presumably trivialized his name later and memorialized the word to refer to a "cheat" or "shrewd manipulator."
- Probably a Waray-waray native himself was Lapu-lapu, our earliest national hero. In a paper that Fr. Miguel A. Bernad, SJ, published in Kinaadman journal in 1995, I hypothesized that Lapu-lapu might have been the chief of Bagasumbol, an ancient village in the capital town of Naval, in Biliran province. "Baga sombol," the ethnic Waray for "like a symbol of a great victory or conquest," seemed to have been the ascribed moniker of Lapu-lapu, memorializing his victory over Ferdinand Magellan in the Battle of Mactan on April 27, 1521.

Bagasumbol was probably Lapu-lapu's "provincial" domain, while Mactan might have been his "urban" domain for trade and ethnic relations with Cebu, an international trade center during his time. Like some part of Bohol, Mactan might have been Waray-waray territory in those years.

From the above historical speculations, we can infer that the "Waray-waray" identity was associated with superior and admirable traits during ethnic times. "Waray-waray" seemed to indicate reckless valor and defiance, ambition, aggressiveness, and native heroics against white-skinned colonizers.

That we now believe the exactly opposite connotation of "Waray-waray," and seek to dissociate ourselves from the shame, may be attributed to the debasing effects of our colonial miseducation, and to the dominating intrusion of "western" and "Imperial Manila" cultures into our way of thinking.

It is time for the Waray-waray people to again take pride in their identity, to exorcise themselves of the self-inflicted shame presently associated with their ethnic label, and to strive to accentuate the positive traits of their ancestors in the 21st century context.



Bush sneak visit to Iraq stuns GIs

From page A1

whose prolonged standing ovation and cheers when he emerged unannounced onto a podium brought tears to his eyes.

"I bring a message on behalf of America: We thank you for your service, we are proud of you and America stands solidly behind you," Bush told the troops, mostly from the US Army's 1st Armored Division and the 82nd Airborne.

Hillary, too

Hot on the heels of Bush's lightning stealth visit came former US first lady now Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who arrived in Baghdad later Friday, officials said.

Clinton was due to spend just one day in the Iraqi capital after her visit to Afghanistan Thursday in which she spent Thanksgiving with the troops there, said a coalition interior ministry official, Thomas Basile.

Before lunch in Baghdad, she met with senior officials of the Coalition Provisional Authority including US overseer Paul Bremer, said Clinton's spokesperson.

"She then had lunch with troops from her home state (New York) in the dining hall at the palace," she said, referring to the city center mansion of Saddam Hussein which is now the seat of the occupation administration.

"At the moment, she is on a visit with a military division outside the security zone," said the spokesperson.

Clinton is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and has been making her tour of US troops deployed to conflict zones accompanied by Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed.

Almost 300 US troops have been killed in Iraq since the US-led assault to oust Saddam Hussein began on March 20, 186 of them since May 1, when Bush declared major combat over.

No retreat

Bush thanked American troops, who are constantly under attack from a deadly guerrilla insurgency, and vowed that US forces would prevail.

"We did not charge hundreds of miles through the heart of Iraq, pay a bitter cost of casualties, defeat a ruthless dictator and liberate 25 million people only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins," he said.

"We will prevail. We will win because our cause is just. We will win because we will stay on the offensive."

Afterward Bush shook hands with soldiers and took a place in the chow line, dishing out food.

Top secret

The top secret, morale-boosting visit took place as Washington and its allies come under intense pressure in Iraq.

Just hours earlier, the Italian Embassy was hit by a rocket, the latest in a series of increasingly audacious attacks by guerrillas fighting the US-led occupation. And five days before Bush flew in there, a missile struck a cargo aircraft taking off from Baghdad's former Saddam International Airport.

A new US-backed plan to hand sovereignty back to Iraqis was set to be changed after objections from the most revered leader of the long-oppressed Shi'ite Muslim majority.

The 57-year-old president, whose absence from active service in Vietnam was an issue during his election campaign, succeeded in impressing many of his troops and bolstering their morale.

"I think that shows real personal courage," said Sgt. Gilbert Nail from Oklahoma as he returned from a night patrol through Saddam Hussein's still dangerous home town of Tikrit.

"It's a total morale booster," said Nail of the 4th Infantry Division when he learned of Bush's flying visit to Baghdad.

"I didn't get to see him but what matters is that he cares enough to come and visit."

PR coup

Analysts said Bush's surprise visit was a public relations coup, but was unlikely to boost sagging domestic support for US involvement in Iraq, analysts said.

"It's public relations for the American public. It's a symbolic action," said Stephen Zunes, a professor of political science and a Middle East specialist at the University of San Francisco.

"I think there is some need to give some kind of gesture that shows that he supports the troops," Zunes said.

"I think the troops are demoralized, dealing with problems. If the commander in chief comes, even though only for two hours in the airport, it helps them," said Judith Kipper, a Middle East expert at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Bush is the latest in a line of presidents who have had to boost the morale of US soldiers on the frontlines. *Reuters, AFP*

Biazon joins Roco camp; Lito O sees landslide win

From page A1

zon Thursday night and formalized their earlier agreement for the latter to join the alliance's senatorial slate.

Maganto

Aside from Biazon, former Solicitor General Frank Chavez and lawyer Mel Mauricio are to run for senator under the alliance to be called "Pag-asa" or "Hope."

Roco said they had about 15 other "nominees" for their senatorial lineup, including Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto, TV hosts Oscar Orbos and Jay Sonza, former securities chief Perfecto Yasay Jr. and Cristy Ramos-Jalasco, daughter of former President Fidel Ramos.

He said the alliance would finalize the lineup, including his running mate, in time for the filing of candidacies between Dec. 15 and Jan. 2.

Maganto, former chief of the Southern Police District, yesterday said in a phone interview that he had "voluntarily submitted himself" as a senatorial candidate of the alliance.

"We [senatorial aspirants] will still undergo a selection process tomorrow, during a convention at the Folk Arts Theater. I'm hoping that I'll be among those chosen," he said.

Maganto said an elective position was "better" than an appointive one because it promised security of tenure.

He also said that as a senator, there would be more opportunities for him to serve the country.

Maganto, 55, plans to retire in December after 32 years in the police service.

Overtures

Biazon said he had received overtures from other parties. He declined to reveal them.

But a source disclosed that the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats had offered Biazon a slot in its senatorial lineup.

The source said among the Lakas officials who phoned Biazon yesterday were Ms Macapagal herself, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

Biazon took a leave of absence from the LDP to be free of what he called the "confusion" reigning in the party, which is split on its choice of standard-bearer.

Some LDP members want party mate Lacson to be the standard-bearer while party leaders Senators Edgardo Angara and Vicente Sotto are backing for Poe.

Earlier, Biazon said the next president should be someone who is "less confrontational, less adversarial and less vindictive."

Landslide

In Cebu City, Lito Osmeña said he expects a landslide victory for Roco in 2004.

Osmeña, former governor of Cebu, said the results of the recent Pulse Asia Inc. survey showed Roco was a formidable candidate because he remained on top despite his limited exposure in the Visayas and Mindanao.

This, compared to Ms Macapagal, who has been "campaigning almost every day" in the provinces, or Poe, who is very popular because of his being "Da King" of Philippine movies, he said.

"Our camp still expects an improvement of Roco's standing by the time we operate in the Visayas and Mindanao," Osmeña said.

He said he saw no problem for Roco in Luzon because the latter had consistently topped all popularity surveys there.

Osmeña said Roco had the support of classes A, B and C and the youth, which, he said, would bring their candidate to the presidency.

"These people are really supporters not because of anything else but their belief in the competence and integrity of Mr. Roco. They cannot be bought," he added.

Stand-offish

Osmeña is expected to be nominated as Roco's running mate in tomorrow's convention of Pagasa. But the ex-governor, who twice failed in his bid for the country's top two posts, said he had yet to decide on the matter.

Crispin Beltran, former representative of Bayan Muna and now national chair of the political party Anakpawis, said Roco might not win the presidency despite consistently topping the surveys.

Beltran said Roco's supposed "stand-offish" stance and his opposition to US foreign policy would not serve him in good stead.

"Roco appears to have the qualities that would make for a credible executive. His record has so far survived [despite] the accusations of corruption by employees of the Department of Education," Beltran said.

Still to decide

The Liberal Party will decide on Dec. 5 between Roco and Ms Macapagal.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, newly designated LP chair, said at a news conference that the party's National Executive Council (NEC) would start its consultations on the selection process next week.

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, LP president, said the names of Ms Macapagal and Roco were mentioned at the NEC meeting yesterday.

Abad disclosed that the party had been holding monthly meetings with the President to discuss certain issues. He said it was Representatives Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and Eric Erice who suggested that the party also meet with Roco.

He added that the NEC-designated emissaries would discuss with the presidential candidates their platforms of government, policies on coalition and attitude toward the LP.

Other issues for discussion, according to Sen. Francis Pangilinan, are their stand on the Marcos wealth, Charter change and Estrada's plunder case. *Reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Dona Pazzibugan, Margaux C. Ortiz and Norman Bordadora in Manila; Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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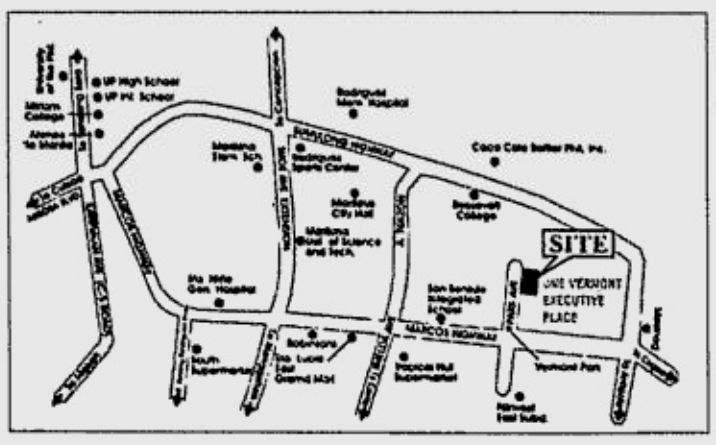

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METRO

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Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

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Rise in crime blamed on PNP setup

By Leila Salaverria

A LOCAL police organization yesterday blamed the setup in the Philippine National Police for the rising crime rate in the country.

SP02 Virgo Villareal, vice president of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association, Inc., said the PNP system was putting emphasis on getting promotions than performing in the field.

This has led police officers to run away from fighting crime to undergo schooling, where Villareal said they were made to take up mere "repetitive" courses.

To be effective crime fighters, he said, policemen needed to have more field experience than classroom education.

Villareal said that when the police were still under the control of the mayors, rookie officers were told to join veteran lawmen in investigating crimes—something that is not possible under the current setup.

Thus, the neophyte investigator learned first hand the skills of talking to witnesses, questioning suspects and gathering evidence to establish a motive.

Police officers back then were promoted mostly due to accomplishment and performance rather than the number of hours spent schooling.

Today, the MBFAI officer said, policemen were required to undergo numerous training programs, making them more competent in theory rather than in practice.

"Training is good, but there is no substitute for experience," he said. "There are policemen who have become colonels but have yet to solve a single crime."

The MBFAI thus expressed support for efforts to return the control over the police to local chief executives to stem rising crime. They called on former Manila police chief and now senator Robert Barbers to help in this objective.

But Villareal added that they were not calling for the abolition of the PNP.

He said they believed that a national entity should supervise the police, but that local law enforcers should be under the mayor's control.

FOR SHABU
A police officer stands by 300 drums of ephedrine, a chemical used in the manufacture of shabu, which were seized by Customs officials at the North Harbor. The shipment was consigned to Premier Sea and Air Cargo Movers Corp. of Escolta, Manila. VAL HANDUMON

Not enough cars, radios cripple NPD crime drive

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

CHRISTMAS is coming and the Northern Police District has drawn up a list of things it wants from Santa Claus—or from anyone in government who could grant them their wish.

On top of that list are 50 patrol cars and communications equipment to help them ensure peace and order in the three cities and one town in northern Metro Manila.

NPD director Marcelino Franco said the National Capital Region Police Office had assigned 30 men from the Regional Special Action Unit to the district but new equipment would also be welcome.

According to Franco, the district headquarters only has two trucks for transportation and no patrol cars.

He added that some policemen had been forced to use their own motorcycles to patrol the district while some patrolled on foot.

The NPD has jurisdiction over Caloocan City, Valenzuela City, Malabon City and Navotas.

The police all over the country have been preparing for the expected surge in criminality during the yuletide season, which is usually accompanied by the rise of mostly petty crimes.

However, the national police has been on continued alert due to a rash of high-profile crimes that included the kidnap-slaying of Betty Sy and the abduction of a 10-year-old pupil in Paco, Manila.

Reacting to these incidents, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the use of checkpoints all over the country to thwart more kidnappings and other crimes.

More undercover cops deployed on Quirino Ave.

AFTER a spate of robberies and the killing of a college student on the corner of Quirino Avenue and South Superhighway, the Western Police District has beefed up security at the crime-prone area.

WPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday said that more plainclothes detectives or "sekretas" have been deployed in the area in order to catch criminals by surprise.

"I believe the criminals would be caught faster if they don't know who'll be apprehending them," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

Bulaong also said that he had ordered more police officers to man the precinct in the area. He added that 2-man teams from the local Special Weapons and Tactics unit, would patrol Quirino Ave. on dirt bikes 24-hours-a-day.

Earlier, a businesswoman from Makati, who lost over P500,000 to a robber at the corner of Quirino Ave. and the South Superhighway, told police that she received no help at all from the barangay captain of the nearby slum community when she sought his help to look for the man who took her bag.

Two days after the businesswoman was robbed, college student Christian Reyes, nephew of beauty expert Ricky Reyes, was waiting at the same corner for the red light to turn green when robbers tried to grab his cellular phone. The student resisted, prompting the culprits to shoot him dead. *Leila Salaverria*

Make way for MMDA traffic preachers

By Margaux Ortiz

STREET education will take on a whole new meaning next week when the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority starts deploying "traffic educators" in Metro Manila to remind pedestrians, motorists and even traffic enforcers, of the basic traffic rules.

Like preachers, the traffic educators will roam the streets giving "lectures" to those in the dark.

"We have noticed that, despite the many street signs we have on our roads, many people are still at a loss (about basic traffic rules)," according to Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center director.

Vergel de Dios yesterday told the INQUIRER over the telephone that the educators will be equipped with signs and soundtrucks.

He said that on Monday three 12-man teams will be deployed on the streets.

Why Lacson can't win

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE BEST way to fight kidnap and holdup gangs is to field uniformed policemen in strategic corners in the metropolis.

Of course, policemen should be equipped with two-way radios connected to their home base. Without communications facilities, uniformed police patrols are useless.

Do you know some police cars don't even have radios?

* * *

Uniformed cops stationed in strategic corners—what police call "choke points"—deter criminality if the cops have two-way radios connected to their home base and fellow cops.

When a bank is held up, for example, the robbers' getaway car or cars can be intercepted by policemen at the choke points. These cops will be alerted by their home base or fellow patrollers on the bank holdup and the direction the robbers have taken.

Come to think of it, Metro Manila is a small place. There are very few major roads and streets to plug when say, a holdup or kidnapping, takes place.

* * *

But our cops assigned to man choke points or checkpoints should be trained in the science of interdiction. They should know when to fire and not to fire at the enemy.

A couple of years ago, a young female Chinoy student was killed, along with her kidnappers, at Edsa by the police in hot pursuit. The policemen were clumsy.

What did that tell us? That policemen should be well-grounded in the study of how criminals behave and how to handle firearms.

* * *

Many years ago, I visited a training school for sheriffs in California.

I found that rookie sheriffs were taught not to commit the mistakes made by lawmen that were killed by criminals.

Videos were shown to the students recounting how the ill-fated lawmen made the fatal mistakes and how they should have acted in the face of the enemy. And there was plenty of role-playing among the students on how to deal with life-and-death situations.

I don't think our student-policemen have the benefit of such training at the police academy. They're not even taught how to shoot properly.

* * *

The candidate most adversely affected by Fernando Poe's declaration to run is Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson.

Ping Lacson has not hidden his bitterness. He keeps blaming Senators Edgardo Angara and Vicente Sotto III for backing up the popular movie actor.

Sidelined, Ping is complaining like a woman scorned. *Bagay naman sa kanya.*

* * *

Why can't Lacson accept the fact that he won't win the presidential race if it were held tomorrow?

No matter how many gimmicks he comes up with—like that corny TV commercial where the models' thoughts are translated into "Ping" print with a Christmas jingle to boot—he still lags behind in the surveys.

Somebody should tell him he's wasting a lot of money on those stupid TV commercials.

* * *

Why doesn't Ping Lacson click with the masses and with the intelligent voters?

The answer is simple: He doesn't have the charisma.

He may have the looks, albeit effeminate, but people don't like him.

A woman sums it all up: "He looks sinister."

Marikina youths stab boy, shoot cops

POLICE arrested four persons, including three minors, for stabbing and wounding Angel Guro, 14, in Marikina City Thursday night.

When searched, the minors, aged 14, 16 and 17, also yielded two homemade guns and a fan knife, police said.

One of the youths arrested was Lito Mansan, 19, of Parang, Marikina.

A fifth suspect, Jonathan de la Cruz, has been tagged as the one who stabbed the victim. De la Cruz is now at large, according to police.

Guro was on his way home when the teenagers mauled him and stabbed him on Lakandula Street.

Senior Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., city police chief, said that when his men were about to arrest the suspects, one of the boys opened fire on a policeman but missed. He said the minors would be turned over to the city's social welfare and development unit. *Luige del Puerto*

METROBRIEFS

Killer at 16

EDVINCENT Villanueva was 16 years old when he stabbed and killed his classmate during a brawl on the campus of the Antonio Maceda Integrated School in Sta. Mesa, Manila in 1997. Now 22, Villanueva is facing a jail term of six months to four years for the death of Ryan de Leon, then a high school sophomore. Judge Oscar Barrientos, of Manila Regional Trial Court branch 26, meted out the light sentence because Villanueva, apart from being a minor when the incident happened, surrendered to the authorities. *Tarra Quismundo*

Free after 7 years

MANUEL Mañalac Jr., of Sta. Ana, Manila, will soon be a free man after the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 53 cleared him of drug charges. Western Police District lawmen arrested Mañalac allegedly for selling shabu in a buy-bust operation in 1996. But Mañalac, who pleaded not guilty to the crime, told the court that he was taking care of his children that night when the lawmen barged into his house looking for a man named "Herman." Failing to find their man, the DEU men took Mañalac in and rapped him for drug peddling. Unable to post bail, Mañalac spent seven years behind bars. *Tarra Quismundo*

Canossa-Lipa reunion

THE CANOSSA Academy-Lipa is inviting alumni to tomorrow's homecoming celebration, "Buklurang Pagsulong 2003," at the school campus in Lipa City. The grand reunion will start with an 8 a.m. mass at the gym. For details, call Marilou Estoesta-Samonte at (0917) 794-9616 or Ma. Nelanie Ureta-Melendres at (0917) 666-9120.

Bridget homecoming

ST. BRIDGET School will hold its annual alumnae homecoming, "A familiar place, a familiar face... coming back to our school's embrace," tomorrow, 1 p.m., at the school auditorium. For inquiries, please call Che at (0919) 439-5828 or Monica at (0917) 526-5147. You may also call SBS at 912-8494.

Xavier gathering

THE ALUMNI Association of Xavier School will hold its annual Grand Homecoming today at 7 p.m. at the Xavier High School Gym. For inquiries, please call the Xavier Alumni Office at 727-3329 and 726-4855.

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SM Bacoor *UGF between SM Appliance & Goldilocks*
Sta. Lucia Mall* *GF, Phase III near Jollibee*
Alabang Town Center *GF, Old Wing between PCX & Mendrez*

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SM Baguio *LGF, in front of staircase between Island Souvenirs & Freshaire*
NE Pacific Mall, Cabanatuan *Atrium 4*
JC Enterprises, Santiago *Entrance gate*
Traders Square, Naga City *GF, Trade Square Bldg. Padre Burgos St., Naga City*
Liana's Discount City, Calamba, Laguna *GF, center*
Magic Mall, Urdaneta *GF Grocery section*
Pacific Mall, Legaspi *GF area*
Maharlika Mall, Baguio *Lobby Area*

Visayas/ Mindanao
SM Cebu *LGF Atrium C*
SM Cagayan de Oro *GF between Giordano & Guess*
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Mindpro Mall, Zamboanga *GF*

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SM Southmall *UGF, in front of Supermarket*
SM Manila *UGF, West Wing near National Bookstore*
SM Sucat *UGF, between Jollibee & Tokyo Tokyo*
SM North Edsa** *City Center, GF Centermall (Sylvia Santos)*
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SPORTS

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**
Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

BASKETBALL: NBA Action; 11 a.m. (r- 5 p.m.); ESPN - Catch the latest highlights and news in this weekly 30-minute program.

NBA - Raptors vs Magic; 9 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports; Spurs vs Lakers; 11:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); ESPN NBA Greatest Games - Pacers vs Celtics, Game 5, 1991 Eastern First Round; 12 noon; Solar Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

Monkey is off Tigers' back

HAVING driven Talk 'N Text into a 2-0 hole again, Coca-Cola this time made sure the All Filipino champ would stay there for good.

The Coke Tigers held the TNT Phone Pals to only eight points in the second quarter and went on to post a runaway 101-81 victory and complete a three-game sweep of their semifinal series in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"At least we got that monkey off our backs," said Jeffrey Cariaso, referring to Coca-Cola's dubious distinction as the first team to lose a best-of-seven championship series after winning the first two games.

That Coke misadventure rewarded the Phone Pals with the All Filipino crown last June as they scored four successive wins from a 0-2 start in the playoffs.

"We didn't expect that we could pull off a sweep, not against Talk 'N Text," added Cariaso, who fired 25 points to match the

MONKEY/ A27

Shell coach steps down

WITH no change to the Shell Turbochargers' continuing misfortunes, coach Perry Ronquillo yesterday offered himself as a solution. The portly, amiable Shell team mentor tendered his courtesy resignation.

Ronquillo, who signed a three-year-contract with the Turbochargers in 2001, still has one year left in his pact, but he said he would waive it if Shell management reconsiders his resignation.

"We will evaluate the team and see what we can do after coach Perry offered his resignation," Shell team governor Bobby Kanapi told the INQUIRER.

Kanapi said Ronquillo, who steered the Turbochargers to the 1999 All Filipino title over heavily favored Tanduay, broke the news to the team over lunch yesterday. *June Navarro*

PEPPERY TNT guard Jimmy Alapag looks like a hockey goalie in his mask. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

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Reyes, Andam duel in semis; Django to face Immonen

BUSTAMANTE: Clash with Reyes expected. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

By Dennis U. Eroa

EFREN "Bata" Reyes arranged a semifinal showdown with dangerous Leonardo Andam after ousting American ace Corey Deuel, 9-4, yesterday in the 1st Café Puro Philippine Open at the Octagon Hall of the Robinson's Galleria.

Earlier, Andam took a big step in his bid for a major title after beating compatriot Antonio Gabica, 9-4, in the quarterfinals of this $64,000 event made possible by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corps and Puyat Sports.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante raised the prospect of an all RP-finals after ousting Korean Jeong Young-Hwa, 9-8, to advance against former world champion Mika Immonen in the other semifinal duel.

Bustamante won the last three racks.

Immonen, who scored a thrilling 9-8 win over Yang Ching Shun in the round of 16, dominated Japan's Satoshi Kawabata in the quarterfinals, 9-2.

Andam boasts of five SEA Games gold medals, but is largely unnoticed by local billiards enthusiasts.

Today's race-to-11, alternate-break semis matchup against Reyes is Andam's golden chance to steal the spotlight from the local billiards hero.

"I'm ready, but Bata remains the favorite here," said Andam, who started the day by ousting giant-killer Rene Cruz, 9-2, in the round of 16. Cruz upset Germany's Ralf Soquet, 9-3, last Thursday.

Reyes ended the title-aspiration of junior sensation Chia Ching Wu, 9-4 in the round of 16.

"The kid is good. He's going to make life harder for the veterans in the coming years," said Bustamante, who beat Antonio Lining, 9-5, in the round of 16.

Last Thursday, Gabica tripped Fil-Canadian Alex Pagulayan, 9-7. *With a report from Agnes R. Mogro*

ESCOLLANTE ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

RP kayak, canoe teams have no boats

By Ernie U. Sarmiento

IT'S barely a week before the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games but the kayak and canoe teams have yet to see their competition boats.

Worse, the Philippine Sports Commission said these boats will not be available for actual competitions in Vietnam.

Coach Leonora Escollante yesterday expressed her frustration over the slow action to their request.

"I'm not sure anymore of our gold medal chances. We submitted our requisition last February. There is already a voucher at the cashier but the PSC said there was no money yet for the purchase of the equipment," Escollante said during yesterday's SCOOP sa Kamayan on West Avenue, Quezon City.

The national teams needed three boats, single and double kayak boats (K1 and K2) and a canoe for the doubles entry (C2).

Escollante said a P418,000 budget had been earmarked for the purchase of the boats to be ordered from Czechoslovakia.

A reporter (from another paper) who talked with PSC chair Eric Buhain Thursday night said the team might have to wait for the next SEA Games to get their request.

Buhain allegedly told the reporter that, even if they placed the order today, the boats might not arrive in time for the Vietnam competitions.

Informed of Buhain's comment, Escollante said she might just use their training boats for the Vietnam Games competitions.

"I pity my players because some of them are using boats that do not fit them. *Naka-tupi ang paa*, which makes it uncomfortable. It will jeopardize their medal chances," she said.

Escollante said she might be forced to replace some players who will not fit the contour of the training boats.

The fun side of Fil-Am

THE BEAUTY of the Fil-Am Golf Championship is its fun aspect. No golf tournament in the world has manifested that to the hilt more than the Fil-Am. That was its bedrock when then Sen. Rogelio dela Rosa laid the foundation of the tournament 54 years ago. It still is, or should still be.

But times have changed.

When the Fil-Am blasts off two days from now at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay, the storied golf courses in Baguio City up north, the competition thing that has suffused the tournament in recent years will again resurface. The warriors thirsting for blood will hunt prey like a pack of wolves, cutting a wide swath of destruction till the tournament's conclusion on Dec. 6. As in great battles fought years ago, many will lie in ruins in the name of competition: Dreams shattered, visions impaired, missions derailed.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

Things have gotten out of hand?

I'm sure Anthony de Leon, BCC general manager, and his CJH counterpart, Heiner Maulbecker, will disagree. And I will, too.

But consider the wisdom of Des Bautista: "We are here supposedly to relax, to forget at least for a week the rigors of life and socialize with friends and soon-to-become friends, to enjoy golf but more than the game, the mingling with fellow competitors after each round, sipping wine at the Country Club verandah or dealing your favorite poker deal to cap a day of fun at the game room. That and that alone should make for the continued existence of the Fil-Am."

There's no golf tournament as animatedly talked about this time of the year than the Fil-Am. The expected fierce battles among the top guns will again hog the sporting limelight for a week or so starting Dec. 1.

Competition isn't bad per se. It is the essence of every tournament. It guns up life's spirit to soar.

Competition becomes bad, however, when a team makes it its chief mission in the Fil-Am. When competition becomes first and participation second, the winning thing effectively kills the socializing thing of any fun tournament in the world, the Fil-Am included.

The Fil-Am isn't the Olympic Games, it is the Olympics of fun among golfers wanting merely to put behind the board room headaches by spending a day in the sun while the cheek is caressed by the cool breeze of the City of Pines. Winning is but secondary; the playing is the be-all.

Who said adults can't have fun? Adults are kids disguised as masters of the universe. Only the fool leaves his childhood for good.

Oh, yes, the fun side of the Fil-Am has remained—but it is now only more pronounced among Fil-Am's hardcore patrons than the rest of the field. They include those who belong mostly to the 50 and above; one of them is Jimmy del Rosario. Jimmy, from Oahu, Hawaii, of Sinait (Ilocos Sur) stock, has been coming to the Fil-Am for so long I've lost count of the years.

"The Fil Am has been so good to me that I just can't knock it off my head," the bonnet-wearing, unbent and still nimble Jimmy, tells me.

Over vintage wine supplied by Insan Taby Tabaniag, Jimmy del Rosario narrated with passion and affection how the Fil-Am has become part and parcel of his existence.

"Since my wife died of cancer," says Jimmy, "my connection with the Fil-Am has grown bigger through the years. After each Fil-Am and the ensuing return trip to Hawaii, I seem to have the heaviest pair of feet on Earth before I board my plane. When I'm finally back to Oahu, the memories of Fil-Am keep flooding my mind."

You think Jimmy, at 81, is old and gray?

Think again, fellas. He can hold his drink. He doesn't use a cart when he plays golf. And, get this, he still has that eagle eye for the fairer sex. In fact, presently, he says he has this apple of his eye in Mindanao, the reason he keeps going back to Duterte Country to visit her yearly in the last four years.

"My children have but one request-that if I ever marry again, I should not get one younger than any of them," says Jimmy, who actually looks just sixty or something. "Fine, fine, I tell 'em. Trouble is, my youngest is more than 50 years old."

His present heartthrob is 33.

Tell me, if the Fil-Am isn't fun, can anyone find a diamond there like one named Jimmy del Rosario?

Pacers trip Knicks

INDIANAPOLIS—Jermaine O'Neal had 27 points and 11 rebounds to lead the Indiana Pacers to their seventh consecutive win, a 93-70 decision over the New York Knicks in NBA play Thursday.

Ron Artest added 21 points for the Pacers, who have the best record in the NBA at 13-2.

Indiana broke open a tight game with an 18-2 run in the third quarter and held the Knicks to a season-low 70 points.

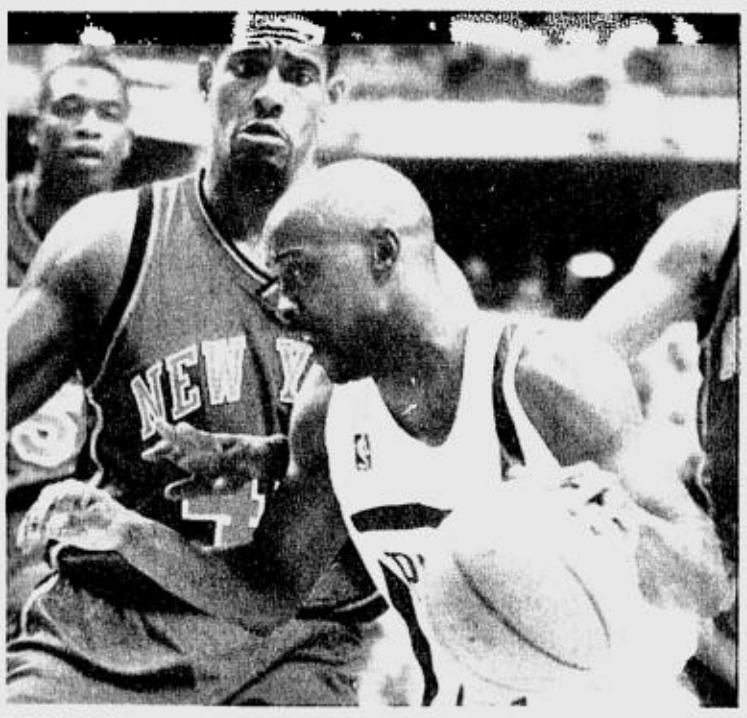
The Pacers have the best defensive record in the NBA, as they've held their opponents to just 81.4 points per game coming into Thursday's tilt.

Indiana has held its opponents to under 79 points in eight of the last nine games.

Al Harrington added 12 points for the Pacers.

Kurt Thomas led New York with 12 points and nine rebounds, as the Knicks lost for the first time in four games despite going 20-for-20 from the free throw line.

Other results: New Jersey 102, LA Clippers 96; Indiana 93, New York 70.*Reuters*



PACERS' Kenny Anderson drives against Knicks' Kurt Thomas. AP

Monkey . . . From page A25

output of import Artemus McClary.

The Tigers, who are in the Finals for the fourth straight tournament, will meet the San Miguel Beermen in a best-of-seven series for the title.

SMB also completed a 3-0 sweep of the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 110-96, later in the night.

McClary shot 23 points alone in the first half, nine in the second period, as the Tigers outscored the Phone Pals, 19-8, to build a 42-31 halftime lead.

Then Rudy Hatfield unloaded 14 points in the third quarter as the Tigers broke the game wide open with a 36-21 blitz for a 76-52 advantage.

Jimmy Alapag, looking like a hockey goalie while playing with a mask to protect his injured nose, contributed 13, behind Harvey Carey's 17.

Scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 101—McClary 25, Cariaso 25, Hatfield 19, Abarrientos 9, Reavies 7, Wainwright 5, Morano 3, Hawkins 2, Hugnatan 2, Avenido 2, Juinio 2, Antonio 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 81—Cantrell 18, Taulava 18, Carey 17, Alapag 13, Pavio 6, Belano 6, Fran 3, Ravena 0, Telan 0, Manalo 0.

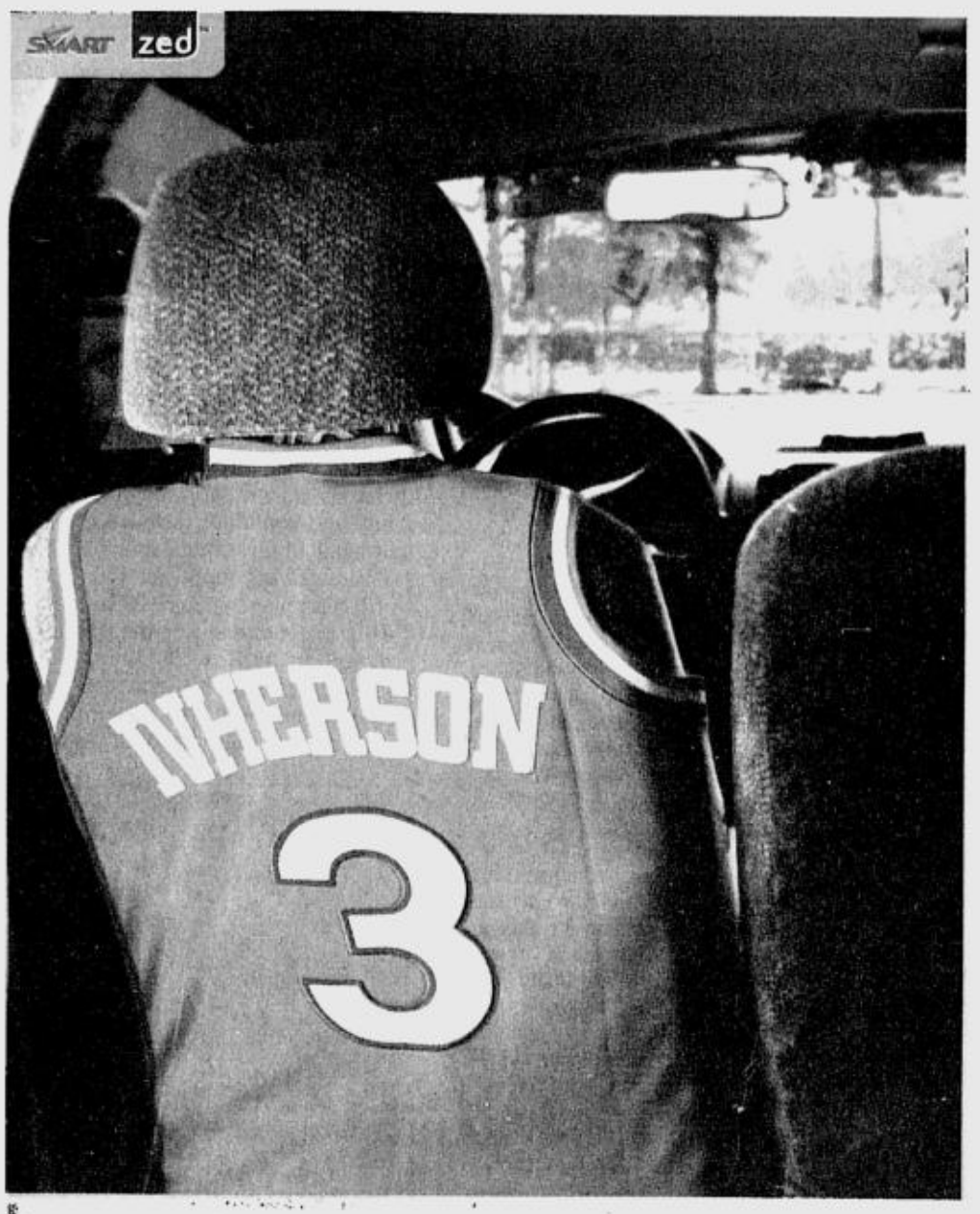
Quarters: 23-23; 42-31; 76-52; 101-81

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 110—Hontiveros 27, Johnson 20, Pena 19, Ildefonso 15, Mente 12, Belasco 5, Gahol 4, Racela 3, Victoria 3, Gamboa 2.

STA. LUCIA 96—Espino 24, Aquino 23, Duremdes 14, Mendoza 14, Santos 8, Bat-og 7, Adriano 4, Webb 2

Quarters: 29-25, 55-49, 86-72, 110-96.



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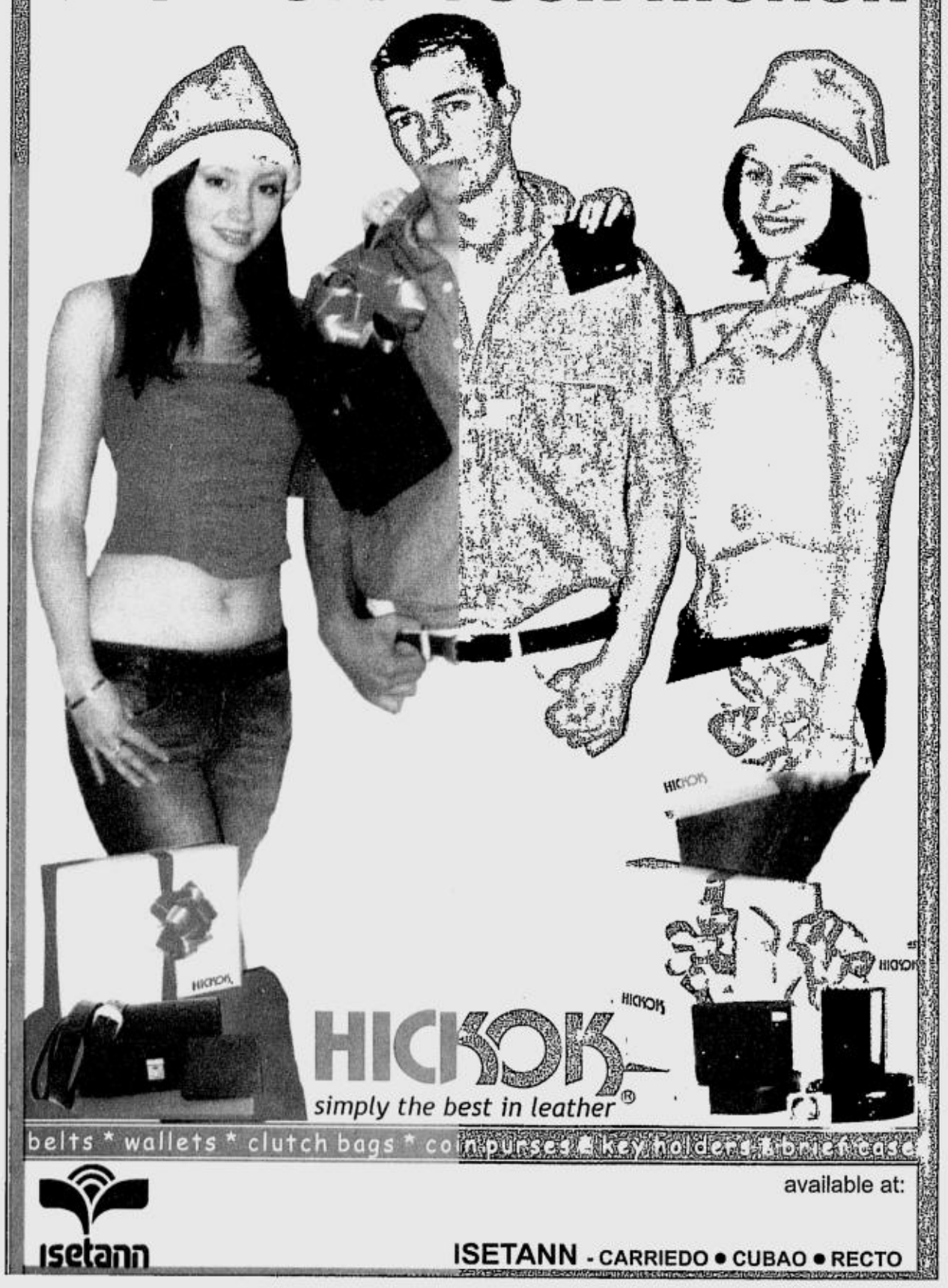


SPORTSWATCH

Pacquiao tourism guest

WORLD boxing champion Manny Pacquiao heads celebrities gracing the closing ceremonies of the First Sports Tourism and Travel Adventure Show tomorrow at the Clamshell 2 in Intramuros. Tourism Sec. Richard Gordon will reward the sports hero with a "dream vacation showcase" in one of the country's top resort attractions. Sports Tourism director Cynthia Carrion is head of the Philippine Convention and Travel Corp. which set up the trade fair. A billiards match at 4 p.m. will feature Pacquiao, Efren "Bata" Reyes and Gordon.

Griffins shock Doves

THE COLEGIO de San Lorenzo Griffins took advantage of the absence of Ranidel de Ocampo and Ervin Sotto to post a 97-76 upset of defending champion St. Francis of Assisi in the 11th National Capital Regional Athletic Association men's basketball tournament at the RTU gym. There was no stopping 6-foot-8 Cyrus Dimao as he dominated the boards and helped the Griffins hand the Doves their first loss in three games. St. Francis' loss put the Edgar Macaraya-coached San Sebastian College-Cavite Baycats on top of Group A with their 3-0 win-loss record. De Ocampo and Sotto are members of the SEA Games-bound national team. Mark Anthony Marcos showed the way for the Griffins, who improved to 2-1, with 26 points while Dimao had 22 points and Ken Rivera 15. PSBA pummeled Lyceum, 61-49, to hike its Group B record to 2-1.

Team Shimano tops bass tilt

BONG Nery and Catch Santos of Team Shimano won the Standard Insurance Bass Fishing Tournament of the Philippine Game Fishing Foundation at Lumot lake, Cavinti, Laguna last weekend in a decisive two-day round of the PGFF Angler of the Year (AOY) derby, despite one more leg to go. The Nery-Santos tandem's 30-bass stringer at 11.315 kg upset Edmund Lim's three victories of the Light Tackle series since January. Nery's two other first placers in the heavy tackle rounds, plus last month's runner-up finish with Santos behind Lim, technically gave Nery the Overall Angler of the Year plum. Lim is virtually the Light Tackle AOY. For details, contact PGFF secretary Camille James at 373-0248 and 373-0743 or e-mail pgff1940@yahoo.com or visit www.FishingPH.com.

Konka picks up 2nd win

DEFENDING champion Konka Plastics '95, UCM Cooling Coils '97 and Genesis 2002 picked up their second straight victories and stayed unbeaten in the Grace Christian High School Inter-Batch basketball tournament at the GCHS gym. Konka Plastics, getting 12 points each from Lih Liang Lin and Francis Tiu, beat JanSport 2000, 57-50. UCM Cooling Coils, powered by Anthony Dy's 20 points and Johannes Go's 18, crushed Excelsior '78, 105-37.

Incredibol 5-cock derby

PROVINCIAL *sabongeros* will challenge one another in Roligon Mega Cockpit's "Apordabol Na, Incredibol Pa 5-Cock Derby" starting at 5 p.m. today. Among those gunning for the P2.25-million prize and imported Nissan Serena are 2003 World Slasher champ Rey Briones, Boy Marzo, Nick Cuadra, Dennis Luzzuriaga, LGBA Breeder of the Year Blandy Tolentino, Don Lacson, Ronald Barandino, Anthony Lim , Rod Villarubio, Gerry Ramos, Y Quimpang, Christopher Tiu, Milton Malaya and lawyer B. Gomez. Hosting this four-day spectacle (Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 11 and 13) is promoter Rolly Ligon, who lowered the entry fee to P8,800. Registration for Dec. 6 and 11 eliminations is open. Interested parties may contact 833-2275 at 833-1638.

Yearend Blockbuster

THE NEW Las Piñas Cockpit, now fully airconditioned, presents the "Yearend Blockbuster 5-Cock Derby" on Dec. 13. At stake is P1.5 million cash prize for an entry fee of P55,000. Derby host is Gerry Ramos of Las Piñas. Among those invited are Gov. Ito Ynares, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Sonny Lagon, Gov. Tony Kho of Masbate, newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet, Mayor Nene Aguilar, former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Ucap president Raymond Velayo, Jet and Joel Fernando of Pampanga, Madlambayan Brothers, Jingco Brothers and Boy de Roca. Submission of weights is on Dec. 12 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact 873-1040.

Mayor nears GP title

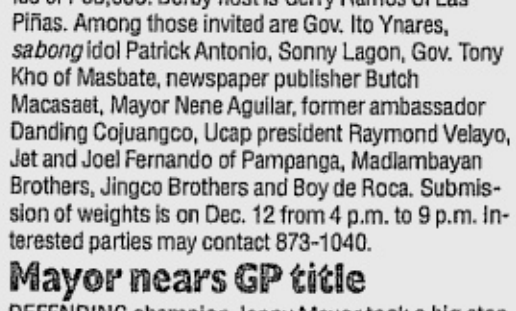
DEFENDING champion Jenny Mayor took a big step toward clinching his fifth grand prix topnotcher title in the Elite section, even as Ramil Acosta retained the top spot in the Classic section going into the ninth and final qualifying leg of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or PEACE 2003 on Nov. 29 at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. Mayor dislodged erstwhile frontrunner Tyrone Guya after finishing tied for third in the eighth leg on Oct. 25. For details, contact the Acca at 892-8759.

NBA Viewing Party

IN CELEBRATION of the 2003-2004 NBA Season, ESPN Star Sports announces its yearly gathering of the basketball faithful: the NBA Viewing Party. The event will be held in Cinema 6 of the Glorietta 4 at 11 a.m. today. To be featured are the Los Angeles Lakers against the defending champion San Antonio Spurs.

Luzon Regional Football

THE LUZON Regional Football Championship in the Men's Open division will start at 9 a.m. tomorrow at the UPLB football field, according to Philippine Football Federation EVP Johnny Romualdez. Opening ceremony guests include Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro and the new PFF president, who will be known in today's elections. Laguna Football Association president Edward Magallona said the participating teams are Baguio, Rizal, Tarlac, Or. Mindoro, NCR and Laguna. The opening match pits Or. Mindoro and Laguna.



SPORTS PARTNERS
Samsung Electronics Philippines president and CEO Sang Youl Eom (second from left) and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso L. Dayrit shake hands after signing the contract for Samsung's support to POC activities. With them are Dong Ha Jang (left), Samsung VP for sales and marketing; and POC first VP Steve Hontiveros.

ASIAN SOFTBALL MEET

Blu Boys renew old feud

THE SEVENTH Asian men's softball tournament opens this morning and concludes five days from now with the result expected to be no different from the six previous ones—either Japan or the Philippines winning the championship.

The defending champion Japanese and the Blu Boys have prevailed here three times and are looking able, ready and confident to make the finals again of this event serving as the Asian qualifying round for the 2004 world championship in New Zealand.

Four matches make up the opening program at the Rizal Stadium, with the Blu Boys and the Japanese fancied to immediately make their presence felt when they face their respective rivals at the start of the one-round, two-group eliminations.

GAMES TODAY *(Rizal Stadium)*
9 a.m.—India vs Chinese-Taipei
11 a.m.—Indonesia vs Hong Kong
1 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
2 p.m.—Iran vs Philippines
4 p.m.—Thailand vs Japan

No less than Roger Rojas, the No. 1 hurler in the Blu Boys' five-man rotation, will take the mound when the Filipinos open their bid against Iran in the upper half of the afternoon doubleheader at 2 p.m.

Like the Filipinos, the Japanese, a fighting second to New Zealand in the 2000 world meet in South Africa, should have no trouble winning their first assignment against Thailand at 4 o'clock.

Chinese-Taipei plays India at 9 a.m. and Indonesia battles Hong Kong at 11 in morning games kicking off the day's inaugural matches in the tournament organized by ASA-Phil and sponsored by Yakult, Toyota, Department of Tourism, PLDT, San Miguel Corp., Philippine Sports Commission, Cemex and Philippine Tobacco Institute.

Bryan Cho of South Korea, president of the Softball Confederation of Asia, will make the ceremonial pitch, assisted by ASA-Phil president and Manila Rep. Harry C. Angping and Philippine Olympic Committee president Cito Dayrit during the simple opening ceremonies set at 1 p.m.

On the eve of the tournament, Angping said it would take a lot of doing to beat the Japanese for the title but he remains confident the Blu Boys can get the job done.

"They (Blu Boys) worked hard, trained hard for this tournament. They really want to get back at the Japanese. They say they can do it and I believe them because they worked hard and trained hard for this one," said Angping.

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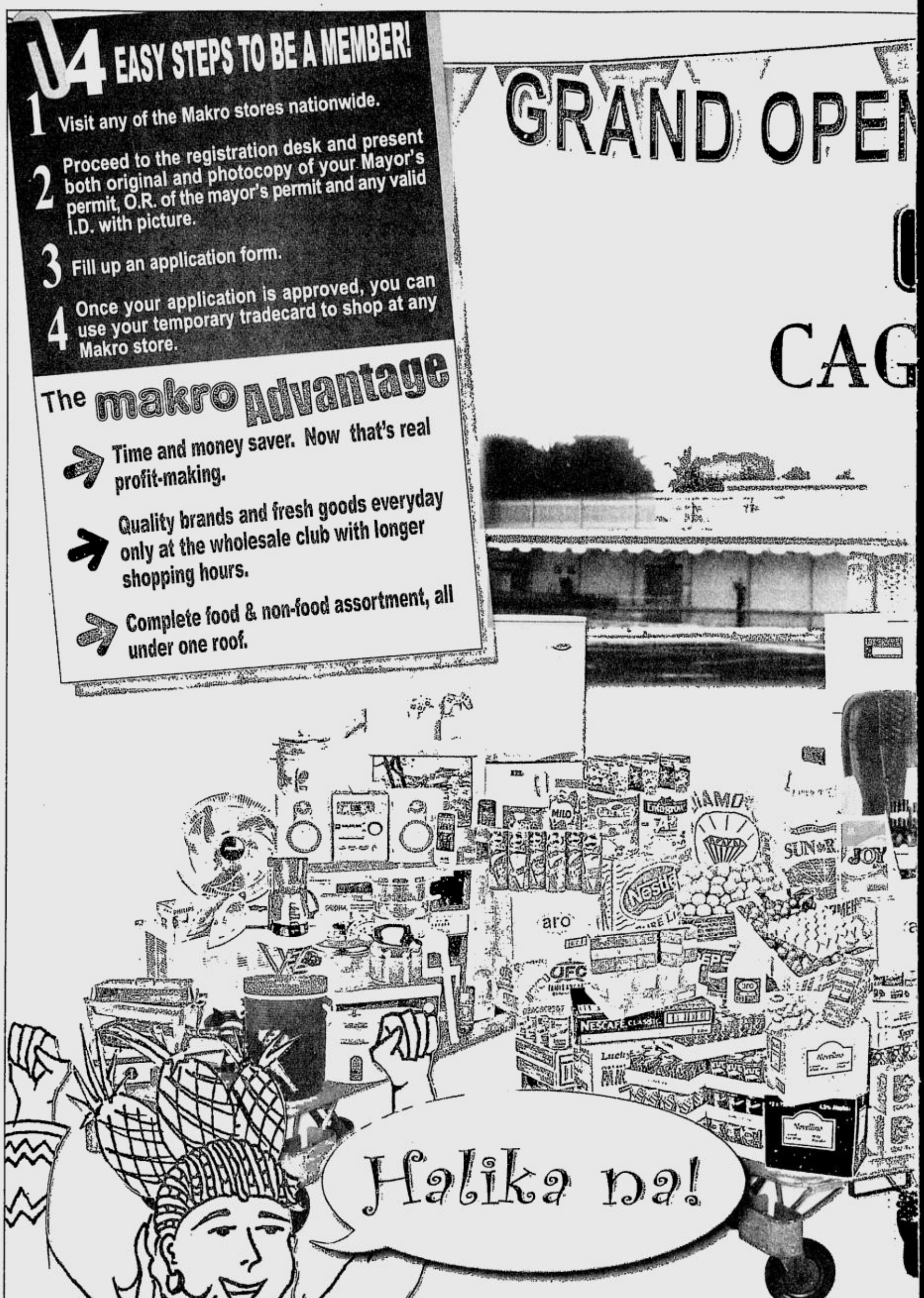

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with Japan

last time they met, the Japanese
l the Blu Boys in a title duel in
the Rizal stadium with Rojas as
ting pitcher.
hat fateful afternoon, Rojas, a
championship veteran playing
Zamboanga City, issued a two-
mer in the lower fifth inning
l the team in.
top three placers will qualify for
rld tournament set in Christ-
New Zealand, with the slots
lly in the bag for the Japanese
Blu Boys. The third one is expect-
to either Indonesia or Taipei.
er the format, the teams are di-
into two groups with Hong
Japan; Indonesia and Thailand
making up Group A and the Philippines, Chinese-Taipei, India and Iran comprising Group B.

The top two teams in each group after the one-round eliminations will advance to the Final Page System Playoff where the top team in Group A meets the runner-up in Group B and the topnotcher in Group B takes on the second placer in Group A.

Then the winners in the two semifinal round games dispute the title in a one-game playoff while the losers mix it up for third and fourth places.

Aside from winning the Asian title three times, the last in 1990, the Blu Boys also finished fourth in the 1968 world championship in Oklahoma.

MIÑOZA: Still in the Top 10

Frankie loses ground despite 2-under 70

FRANKIE Miñoza needed a birdie on the par-5 18th to remain in the Top 10 even as Katsumune Imai pulled away from the pack in the second round of the $1.28-million Casio World Open 2003 at the Kaimon course of the Ibusuki Golf Club in Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan.

That closing birdie on the easiest of the four par-5s gave Miñoza a 2-under-par 70 and a tie for seventh place with Soushi Tajima, Dinesh Chand, Katsunori Kuwabara and Kim Jong Duck.

But Miñoza now has to come up with a solid effort in the weekend rounds to boost his bid to end a two-year title drought as Imai fired a second straight 7-under 65.

With his 14-under 130 aggregate for 36 holes, Imai stormed ahead by four strokes over Jyoti Randhawa of India, who shot 66-134. Mamoru Osanai was third at 135 after a 66.

The historic stint of Sophie Gustafson, who became the first woman to compete in the Japanese Tour, ended early. The Swede could do no better than a 77 and landed in a tie for 93rd with Koumei Oeda.

After a birdie-bogey start, Miñoza birdied the fifth and eighth to move to two under but started his back nine stint with a bogey on the 10th.

Miñoza is hoping for a strong finish in the Casio World Open, which is the second biggest leg of the Japan Tour, to improve on his lowly 65th-place ranking in the money list.

His best finish this season came last August in the Sun Chlorella Classic where he finished equal ninth.

The penultimate leg of the Tour offers $256,431 to the winner. *Jong Arcano*

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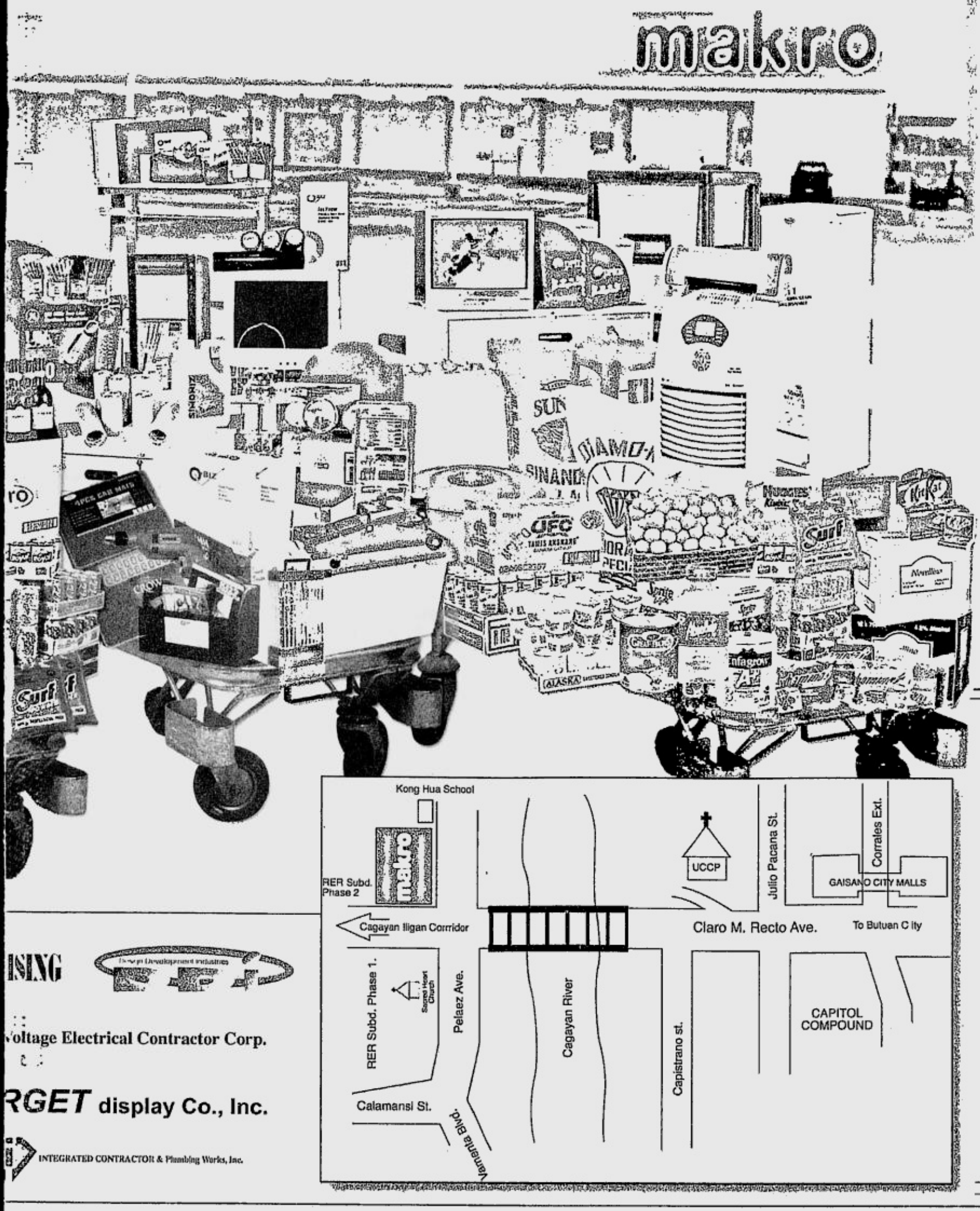

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Spring-SP shoots down Sulpicio five, gains q'finals

SPRING Cooking Oil-San Pablo exploded for 30 points in the third period to turn back Sulpicio Lines-Pampanga, 78-70, Thursday and advance to the quarterfinals of the 2003 Panasonic-National Basketball League Regional Cup tournament at the Adamson gym.

Mario Reyes fired 11 of his 14 points, including three triples, in the third period to give the Spring-SP 7 Lakers a 63-46 lead en route to their fourth win in seven games in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic Phils., Beer na Beer, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, BJ Star Logistics and Molten Basketball.

GAMES MONDAY
(Lyceum Gym)
5 p.m.—Pampanga vs Grachiya-Adamson

Spring-SP thus joined M. Lhuillier Kwarta Padala-Cebu, Ilocos Sur Snipers and Compak Shineway-Ozamiz City in the quarterfinals, where they enjoy a twice-to-beat privilege.

Restolax/Mail and More-MayniLA steadied in the final minute to nip Grachiya-Adamson, 63-61, in the other game.

The 7 Lakers trailed 33-34 at halftime, but Theody Habelito sparked an 11-2 blast to pull Spring-SP ahead, 44-36, with 6:37 left.

Pampanga rallied to within two, 42-44, but Reyes struck for a 2-pointer and three triples to rip the game wide open.

The Manilans banked on Nani Epondulan's triple in the last 1:03 to level their record at 3-3.

Scores:

First Game

SPRING-SP 78—Reyes 14, Crisostomo 13, Manuel 11, Limbo 10, Menor 10, Mendoza 6, Alberto 6, Habelito 4, Tanguines 2, Tolentino 2, Maghirang 0, Vilar 9, Alidio 0, Lingal 0

PAMPANGA 70—Tadeo 12, Garcia 10, Yambao 9, Tolentino 9, Pile 8, Pua 7, Bansil 6, Liangco 6, Tan 3.

Quarters: 19-23, 33-34, 63-46, 78-70

Second Game

MAYNILA 63—Sanz 12, Epondulan 10, Malabanan 9, Salvador 9, Garcia 7, Serrano 4, Buendia 4, Manucat 2, Mallari 2, Corbin 2, Caceres 2, Finular 0, Ricafuerte 0, Cristobal 0.

GRACHIYA-ADAMSON 61—Abadia 21, Cabahug 13, Alonzo 7, Tenesco 7, Hate 6, Tagupa 5, Poloyapoy 2, Tiongco 0, Hugnatan 0, Tajonera 0, Capati 0.

Quarters: 27-16, 39-31, 51-54, 63-61.

FIRST IN RP

Tams outlast Eagles in 5 extra time

UAAP champion Far Eastern University outlasted Ateneo-A, 115-112, in a historic five-overtime contest at the start of the Red Bull-sponsored Lito Puyat Cup basketball tournament recently at the FEU gym.

The Tamaraws trailed 27-29 at halftime, but battled the Blue Eagles toe-to-toe the rest of the way to the delight of the partisan crowd.

GAMES TODAY *(FEU gym)*
9 a.m.—UPHR vs Adamson
10:30 a.m.—UPHR vs Adamson
12:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs SSC
2 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo-B
3:30 p.m.—SBC vs DLSU
5 p.m.—PCU-B vs SBC-B
6:30 p.m.—FEU vs PCU-A

A day earlier, the Blue Eagles ripped Philippine Christian University-A, 80-54.

Former UAAP titlist La Salle spilled San Sebastian, 78-74; University of the Philippines ripped San Beda, 70-53; PCU-B downed National University, 63-59, and Mapua Institute of Technology toppled Ateneo-B, 75-70, in the other games of the tourney organized by Micaba president Cenon "Pipay" Buenaventura and sponsored by Photokina Marketing Corp. and Energy Food & Drinks.

Action resumes today at FEU gym with seven games on tap.

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African champs test SEAG-bound RP five

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ONE is bound for the Olympics, the other for the Southeast Asian Games.

With this great disparity in credentials, Angola will surely be teaching the National quintet a thing or two when they collide in an exhibition game organized by the Philippine Basketball League starting at noon today at the Pasig Sports Complex.

The Angolans, who qualified for the Olympics next year in Greece as the African titlists, will be the toughest test for the defending SEAG champions in their scrambling buildup for Vietnam.

SCHEDULE TODAY *(Pasig Sports Complex)*
12 noon—RP vs Angola
2 p.m.—Fun Games

The Filipino cagers had breezed through their three warmup games against PBL squads, but this time they're up against big, rugged players with an average height of 6-5.

If it's any consolation, the Filipinos won't be facing in the SEAG the kind of game the Angolans are expected to display today.

Meanwhile, commissioner Chino Trinidad said PBL fans are in for a treat during the fun games set after the Angola-RP contest.

"After almost three weeks of exciting games, it's time for our players to display their individual skills," he said.

The fun competitions include slalom, slam dunk and two-ball.

The national team, coached by Aric del Rosario, is made up of James Yap, Ranidel de Ocampo, Ervin Sotto and Marc Pingris of Welcoat, Gary David of Montaña, Fash's Rich Alvarez, Allan Salangsang and Wesley Gonzales, Ricky Calimag, Richard Melencio, Celino Cruz and Dennis Madrid.

4 taekwondo aces to seek Olympic berths

NATIONAL taekwondo team captain Donald David Geisler III and three other jins competing in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games are leaving today for France to seek berths in the Olympic Games next year in Athens, Greece.

Joining Geisler, who will compete in the lightweight division in the Olympic qualifying in Paris are flyweight Tshomlee Go and Sally Solis (welterweight) and Kalindi Tamayo (bantamweight).

"We will be going there not just to qualify for the Athens Olympics," said Geisler during yesterday's Scoop sa Kamayan. "It is also apart of our yearlong buildup for the SEA Games."

The Paris trip caps the training calendar of the jins who earlier saw action in the Korea Open and World Championships in a bid to surpass their 3-5-5 gold-silver-bronze performance in Kuala Lumpur two years ago.

The karatedo team, represented during the session by KL gold winner Gretchen Malalad, also promised to surpass its 2-1-5 tally considering the squad's intensive training. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

FOUNDERS' CHAMPION DAN Salvador III (third from left) and his partner Bob Horan display their trophies as low gross champions of the seventh Founders Golf Invitational held recently at the Orchard Golf and Country Club. With them are Orchard chair Vicente Santos (extreme left), club president Conrad Benitez (extreme right) and Ladies of the Striding Man Shirley and Cherry.

DAVIS CUP

Spain ties Australia

MELBOURNE—Australia and Spain were locked at 1-1 after a dramatic first day of singles in the Davis Cup final on Friday.

Lleyton Hewitt staged a remarkable comeback to beat French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero, 3-6, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2, and give Australia a 1-0 lead.

But Spain leveled the tie at 1-1 when Carlos Moya upset Wimbledon runner-up Mark Philippoussis, 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 7-6, in the second rubber.

There was drama even before the opening match when Spain's sports minister ordered the team not to start until an apology had been issued after officials played the wrong anthem at the opening ceremony.

Juan Antonio Gomez-Angulo, who was watching from the stands, left the Rod Laver Arena in protest over the incident. He returned after an Australian apology and the tennis began.

"This reparation was done but the Spanish delegation is not quite satisfied and we have indicated to the International Tennis Federation, that prior to the commencement of the doubles match, the correct anthem be played," he later told a news conference.

HEWITT reacts after a point against Ferrero. AP

Hewitt, the former world number one, drew on all his fighting spirit to twice claw his way back from a set down in searing 30-degree-Celsius heat. *Reuters*

Sorenstam continues historic season

LA QUINTA, California—Swedish superstar Annika Sorenstam continues her historic season Saturday when she becomes the first woman to compete in the Skins Game.

Six months after becoming the first female in 58 years to play in a PGA Tour event, Sorenstam joins Phil Mickelson, Fred Couples and Mark O'Meara in the $1 million Skins Game at Trilogy Golf Club. The 21st annual Skins Game is a two-day, 18-hole event in the California desert.

Mickelson is one of the sport's biggest drawing cards, Couples is the event's all-time leading money winner and O'Meara is the defending champion. But all eyes will be on Sorenstam.

Singh, Perry share lead

SUN CITY, South Africa—Fiji's Vijay Singh and American Kenny Perry carded seven-under-par 65s to lead the 18-man field after the first round of the Sun City Golf Challenge on Thursday. Defending champion and local favorite Ernie Els fired a 72—the first time in 29 rounds at Sun City that he has failed to break par. *Reuters*

In May, the world's No. 1 female golfer became the first woman since Babe Didrikson Zaharias at the 1945 Los Angeles Open to play in a PGA Tour event, missing the cut at The Colonial.

Also this season, the 33-year-old Sorenstam completed the career Grand Slam and gained induction into the LPGA Tour Hall of Fame. *AFP*

Pioneer Badminton qualifying tomorrow

THE FINAL qualifying for the Pioneer Badminton Christmas tournament gets underway Sunday as tournament organizers intensify preparations for the year-end event slated Dec. 13-14.

Pioneer Badminton's Edmin Tarriela expects a huge turnout during the final leveling-qualifying among Pioneer Badminton regulars and non-members as well.

The leveling-qualifying, designed to categorize the participants' badminton skills, is set at 1-5 p.m. to be conducted by tournament director and former national athlete Eg Lim.

Tarriela said non-members who participated during the leveling would be allowed to practice at Pioneer Badminton on weekends before the two-day tournament sponsored by Pacific Internet, Whistlestop, Magic 89.9 and Yehey.com.

Organizing committee head Dea Alonzo said that aside from the 150 spots allocated for Pioneer Badminton regulars, at least 50 slots would be given to non-members. Interested parties may call Pioneer Badminton at 746-0828 or 638-5343.

"We are opening our doors to all badminton fanatics who are interested to join the competition," said Alonzo.

The two-day event will culminate with a Christmas party-awarding ceremony to be held at the Whistlestop Shangri-la in Pasig City on Dec. 14.

The tournament is organized by Pioneer Badminton members wanting to hone their skills for bigger tournaments next year.

No receipts for Pacquiao's $.35M expense

By Rey Danseco

MARTY Elorde, registered manager of Manny Pacquiao, yesterday said he failed to get the receipts for the $350,000 allegedly spent for training in California by the world's newest boxing celebrity.

Elorde said Rod Nazario, Pacquiao's business manager, submitted the breakdown of the expenses when they met in Parañaque on Thursday.

But, like in the previous transactions for Pacquiao's four other bouts in the US, Elorde said Nazario failed to give any receipt even from the Vagabond Inn, where Team Pacquiao stayed.

At best, what Nazario agreed to submit was the sum total of the expenses.

"Kuwenta lang ng mga gastos," Elorde said to describe the papers from Nazario.

Elorde, bachelor son of the late Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, would not reveal the exact amount of the expenses which he described as messy ("Marami ito, kung anu-ano").

Elorde said Nazario started the loose accounting based on the original $350,000, initially announced as Pacquiao's purse, and not on the $700,000 which later turned out to be the purse HBO had set aside for the Filipino champion.

Nazario had openly announced that Pacquiao's purse for the fight against Marco Antonio Barrera was $350,000.

Search for new billiard talents unfolds tonight

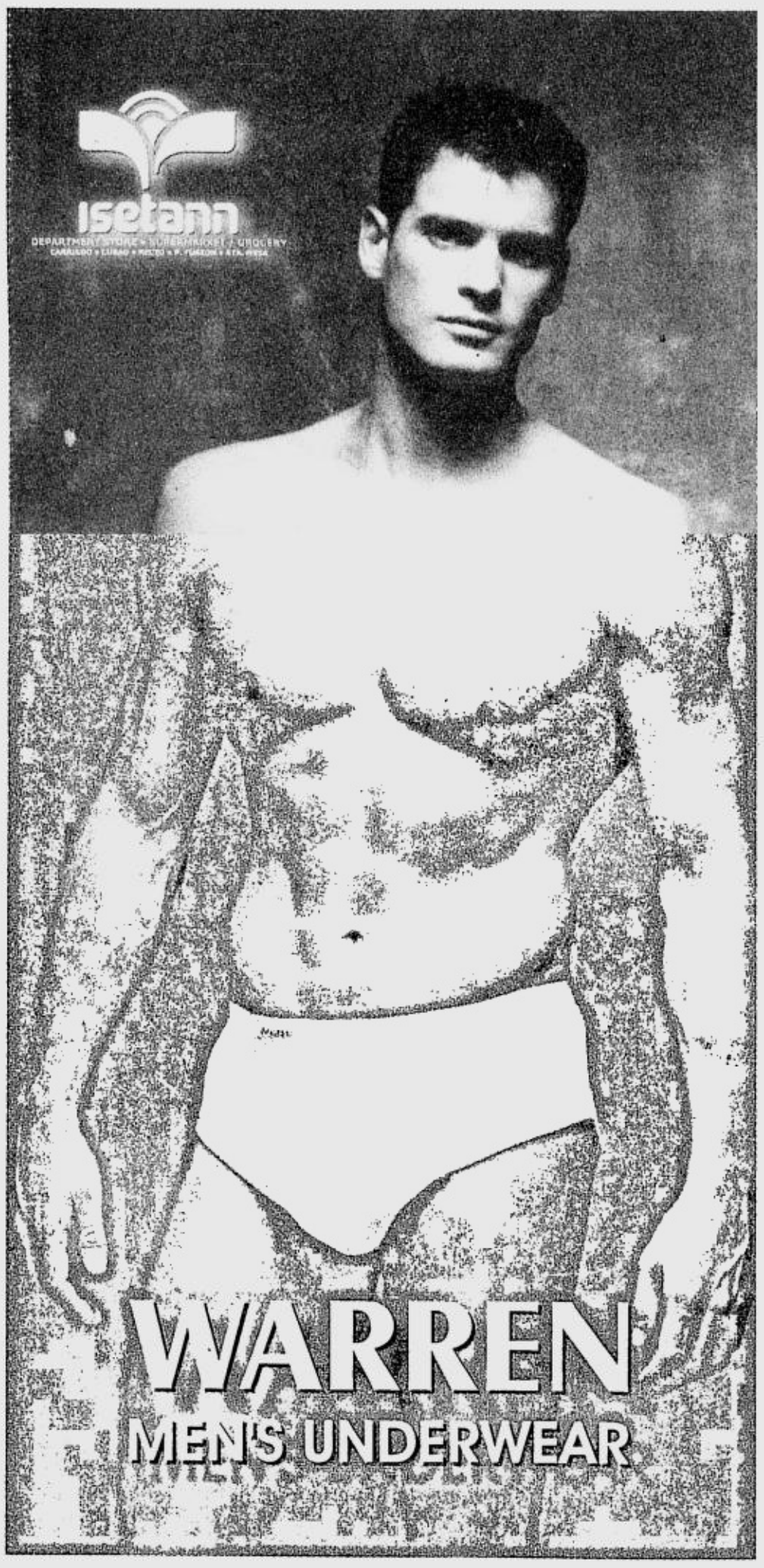
A UNIQUE search for new Filipino billiard stars starts with the launch tonight of the "Search for Tanduay No. 1 Billiards Player" at the Robinson's Malls.

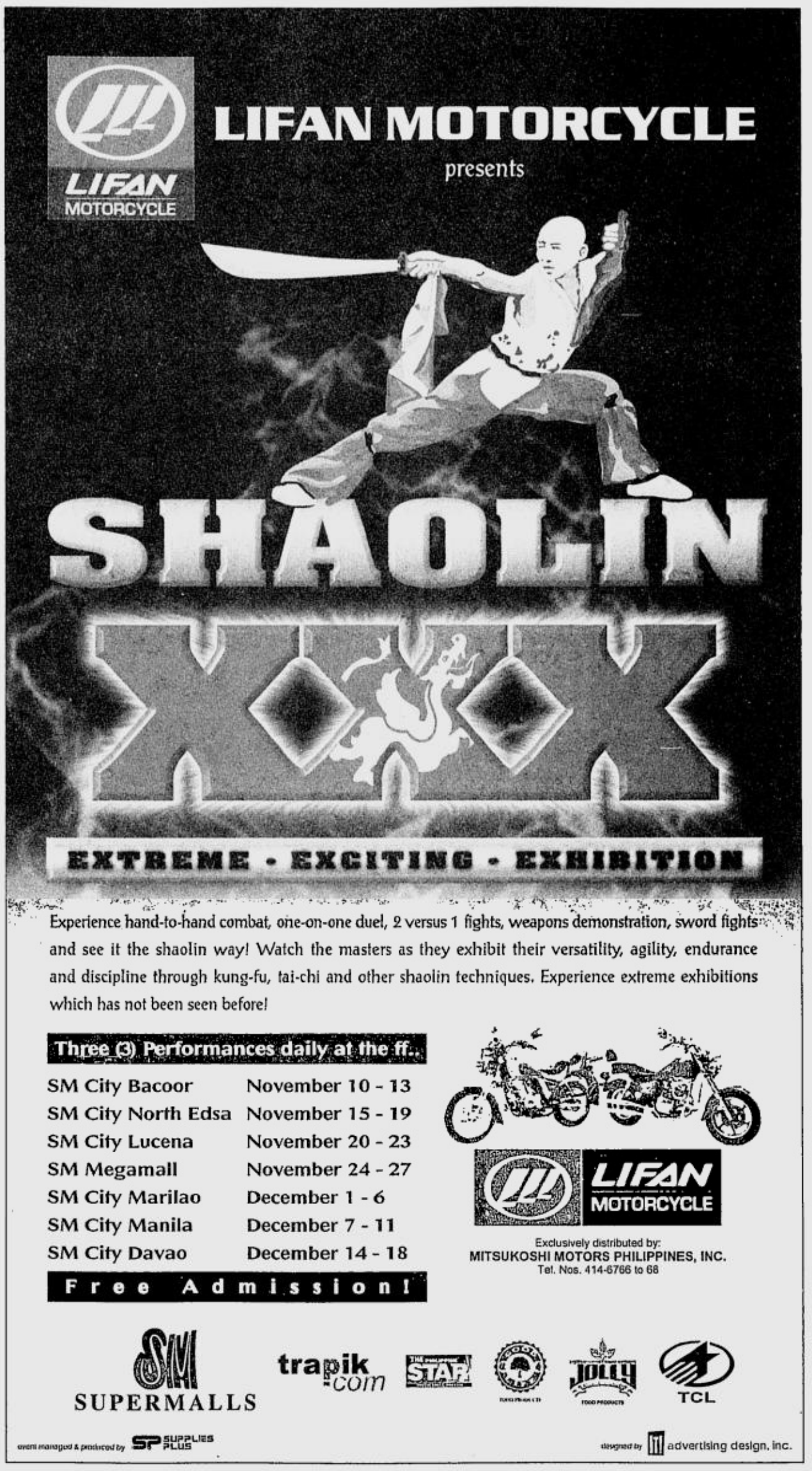
In the format conceptualized by Tanduay advertising manager Larry Li and supported by Tanduay marketing head Andres Co, two new talents will be picked each week to challenge the featured artist in a race-to-five match.

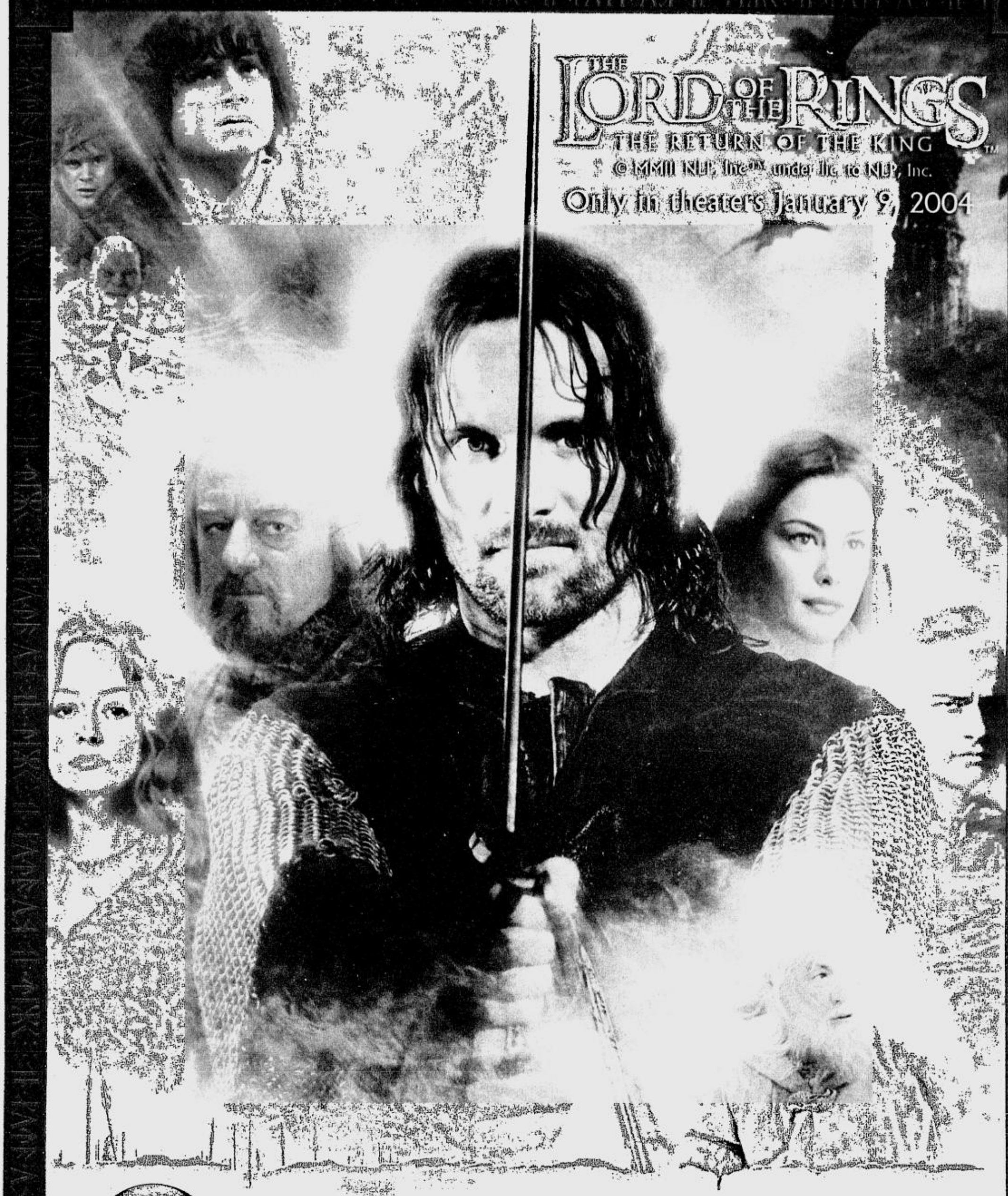
This week's featured cue artist is Antonio Gabica who emerged back-to-back champion of the 2002-2003 Tokyo Open.

Going up against him are 17-year-old Davao native Angel Jao, who made his mark as the Junior 9-Ball champion 2003, and Reginald "PJ" Miñoza of Marikina, who won the Lucky Billiards 9-Ball Open in 2000.

Watch...Search for Tanduay The No. 1 Billiard Player Every Saturday on NBN 4, 8-9 PM
TANDUAY
THE NO. 1 RHUM







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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

B1

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Peace and order remains top concern

By Michelle V. Remo

THE LOCAL business community has presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo 10 resolutions that it considered as the major areas of development that the next administration should focus on to improve the economy.

These included suggestions in the fields of peace and order, governance, infrastructure, legislation for business development, credit and financing, environment, human capital, trade policy and negotiations, industry, and other cross-cutting issues.

The resolutions, which were formed from deliberations by representatives of the business sector, were presented to the President yesterday during the closing of the annual Philippine Business Conference.

On the area of peace and order, local businessmen said insurgency in Mindanao as well as threats of terrorist activities from several bandit groups like the Abu Sayyaf have been a major drag in the efforts of both the government and the private sector to encourage foreign investments.

The business leaders proposed for the creation of a working committee that would focus on crafting programs to increase business opportunities and employment in conflict areas, and therefore peace and order.

The President, addressing the businessmen, said she has responded to the call for an improved peace and order situation by making the problem one of the focuses of her administration's efforts.

She said her administration has put up a P300-million fund as reward for people who will be of help in the government's efforts to arrest kidnappers.

In the area of legislation, the business sector has pushed for the immediate passage of bills or improvement of laws that will deal with SME development and that will amend the labor code. Other key legislation the sector wanted the government to put more emphasis on were the Electric Power Reform Act, the Clean Air Act and the Domestic Shipping Development Act.

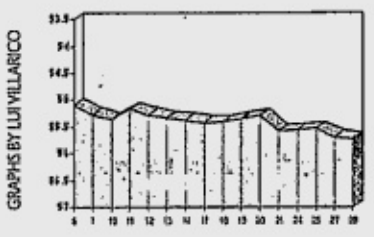
In the area of human capital, the business leaders wanted the government to improve the education system, especially the workforce's English proficiency, which has been raised by investors particularly in the contact center business as primary consideration in hiring employees.

Other issues the business community brought to the President included the development of the mining sector, care for the environment and the problem on the rising population.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱55.73 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 28, 2003

¥109.10 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 27, 2003

GOLD: $394.90-395.40
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 28, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Share prices down 0.42%

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SHARE prices closed 0.42 percent lower yesterday as investors continued on the defensive amid political uncertainties ahead of the presidential elections in May, dealers said.

The absence of fresh leads and the peso's weakness prompted investors to stay on the sidelines and it seems likely the market will continue under pressure for some time.

(See stock market report on Page B2)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 5.55 points to 1,313.87, having traded between 1,308.24 and 1,323.38 points. This was the lowest close since Oct. 9 when the market finished at 1,303.66.

Losers outnumbered gainers 27 to 23, while 37 stocks were unchanged.

Volume fell to 188.19 million shares worth P628.1 million from 215.2 million shares worth P413.2 million on Thursday.

The all-shares index was up 3.11 points at 836.35 but the commercial-industrial index fell 6.89 to 1,962.11. Property was down 0.21 at 543.45 as mining fell 32.76 to 1,610.22. Oil was up 0.02 at 1.33 but banking and financial services shed 4.20 to 416.86.

• "Political uncertainties ahead of the elections are still causing nervousness among investors," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities Inc. *AFP*

PLDT: Formidable force in telecom

By Abigail L. Ho

(Last of two parts)

AT THE HEIGHT of the Asian financial crisis in the late 1990s, Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd. came into the picture, bringing into PLDT a new brand of leadership and a new culture.

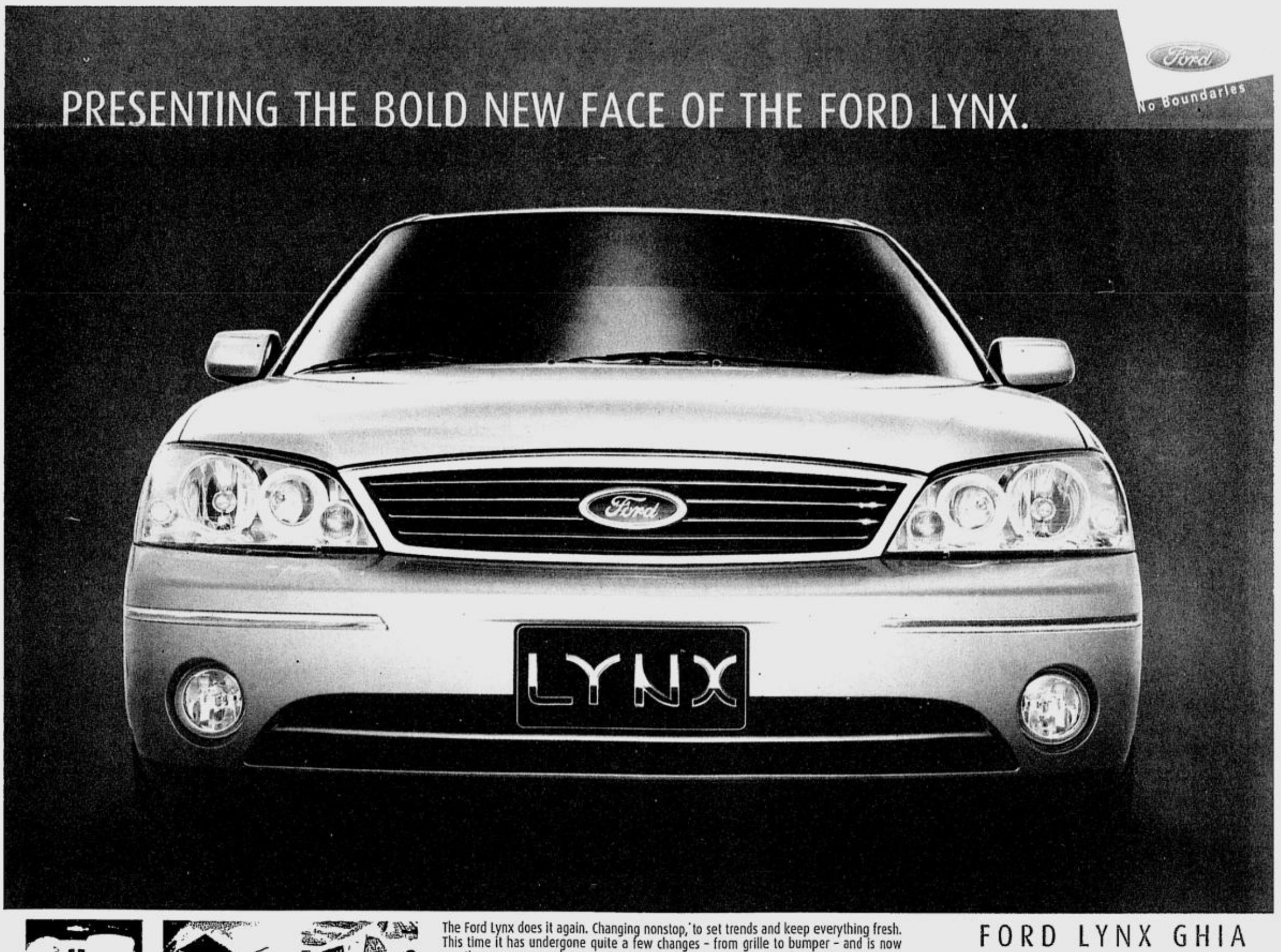
FEATURE

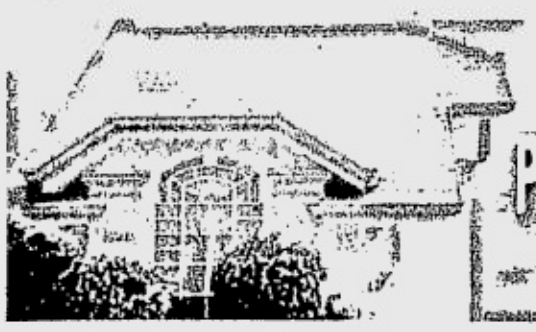
On Nov. 24, 1998, First Pacific acquired a 17.2-percent stake in PLDT for P29.7 billion.

First Pacific executive Manuel Pangilinan replaced Tonyboy as president as the latter assumed the position of chairman of the board in the company.

PLDT/ B5

PRESIDENT Macapagal presents to taipan Lucio Tan the Most Outstanding Member of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Award during the closing ceremonies of the 29th Philippine Business Conference and Exhibition at the Manila Hotel. Looking on (from left) are Miguel Varela (partly hidden), PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. (second from right), and PCCI vice president Peter Favila ROGER MARGALLO





BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Fernando had a way

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SPEAKING for a large majority of Filipinos, I say that we tried hard to stop our kids from getting their ears pierced to the tune of Fernando's Hideaway, or for that matter, any other part of their anatomy or any song.

But after all our sacrifices, the peso just posted an all-time low exchange rate against the US dollar, and what was more, the stock market went south.

And market analysts blamed everything on the announcement of Fernando Poe Jr., a.k.a. FP "Da King" J, that he would run for President of the Republic.

What was it, really, in the news about the country's most popular movie actor's candidacy which spooked the financial markets—his long sideburns?

* * *

ANYWAY, even if the length of Poe's sideburns was just average, the markets would have still reacted similarly. Meaning, negatively!

That was also the reaction to the news that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was resigning, although he sported short sideburns.

Such a reaction was just to be expected, because even before Poe made the announcement, some groups already launched a putdown campaign against him.

We already heard things like he was born in Hawaii, he was a high school dropout, and he never even bothered to make a single movie with Kris Aquino.

* * *

FORGODSAKES, the guy was just an actor! He was sooooo jologs! Pity *naman* our *bayan 'no*! You know—we were not supposed to think highly of Poe.

But come to think of it, something was implied underneath such putdown lines. And that was, well, a sense of superiority. Or even supremacy.

Deep inside we must see ourselves as superior to somebody whom we call "bobo" or "jologs," and for that matter, any other putdown lines.

But are we really that superior to Poe? Hmm. Based on articles written so far about him, the character of the man seems unassailable.

* * *

EVERYBODY in the financial markets knew that, among all the people in the whole wide world, Poe was the closest ever to the man named Band...Wrist Band.

Everybody believed that, during the happy days (and nights) of Wrist Band in the Palace, characters like Mark Jimenez (not his real name) made tons of money.

But nothing of such nature even remotely was ever said, rumored or speculated about the man to whom Wrist Band could not—NEVER—say "no!"

Although he campaigned hard for Wrist Band, perhaps harder than any of the legions of hangers-on, Poe never asked Wrist Band for

BREAKTIME/ B3

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PLDT launches Ninoy Aquino Touch Card

PLDT launches the special edition Ninoy Aquino Touch Card in celebration of PLDT's 75th Anniversary and in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Ninoy Aquino's heroism.

For every purchase of the special edition Ninoy Aquino Touch Card, a donation is given to the Benigno S. Aquino Jr., Foundation to help fund the various programs, services and activities of the foundation such as scholarship grants and livelihood projects in order to perpetuate the legacy of Ninoy for future generations to appreciate and draw inspiration from.

The special edition card guarantees you low NDD rate of P3 per minute. It comes in P100 denomination and this can be purchased from the PLDT Business Offices and Authorized PLDT prepaid card dealers and agents nationwide.

ADVT.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 28, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.75	11,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	43.5	42.5	43	670,900
China Banking Corp.	660	660	660	660	19,100
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	32.5	33	266,800
Export And Ind. Bank Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	240,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	26	26	26	26	96,000
Philippine National Bank	24.25	24.25	24	24	1,900
Philippine Trust Co.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	93,700
Union Bank Of The Phil.	26	26	25.5	25.5	5,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Abacus Financial	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	400,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	195	200	195	195	310
Manulife Financial Corp.	1700	1715	1700	1715	950
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	127,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1330	1340	1330	1340	3,510
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27	27	26	26	2,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.69	0.69	0.67	0.67	790,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	735	740	715	720	52,830
Ipeople Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.039	0.038	0.039	3,600,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	7,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.79	0.81	12,030,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	760	765	745	755	214,150
Ivantage Corp.	0.35	0.39	0.35	0.39	70,000
Philweb Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	2,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14	13.75	14	31,300
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.75	21	21.75	415,800
Petron Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.08	2.1	6,601,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	205,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	31,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	6,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	18,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	31	30.5	30.5	22,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	17	16.75	17	594,700
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54.5	53.5	54.5	22,200
San Miguel Corp. B	61	62	61	62	77,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.9	4.75	4.75	15,796,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	10,000
APC Group Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	100,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	2,040,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	640,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.038	0.04	0.038	0.04	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,050,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	17.75	18	17.75	18	479,700
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	284,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1.02	1,211,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.26	15,390,000
Music Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	240,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	50,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	36,030,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.57	0.58	0.55	0.58	4,030,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	460,000
Manila Jockey Club	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	5,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.14	0.185	0.14	0.185	260,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	879,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.3	5.4	5,870,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	15,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.12	1,240,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	950,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.06	1.02	1.05	5,650,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.18	2.22	2.18	2.22	151,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.88	40,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	5,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.5	17,935,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	3,200,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	18,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	4,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	400,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	4,000,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	3,000,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	250,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	1,944,370	61,152,665.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	108,471,780	410,554,130.00
PRO	32,156,000	154,920,650.00
Mining	36,810,000	1,174,400.00
OIL	7,250,000	84,350.00
GRAND TOTALS:	186,632,150	627,886,195.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	416.86	DOWN 4.20
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,962.11	DOWN 6.89
PRO	543.45	UP 0.21
Mining	1,610.22	DOWN 32.76
OIL	1.33	UP 0.02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	836.35	UP 3.11
Composite	1,313.87	DOWN 5.55

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 27; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 87; NO. OF TRADES: 1,539

CURRENCIES

November 28, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.837170364	1.000000	55.767000
Japan	Yen	0.007682	0.009176	0.511700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.434157	1.713100	95.534400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107794	0.128760	7.180600
Switzerland	Franc	0.648015	0.774054	43.166700
Canada	Dollar	0.642495	0.767460	42.798900
Singapore	Dollar	0.486049	0.580585	32.377500
Australia	Dollar	0.605942	0.723798	40.364000
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.232455	2.666667	148.712000
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.223227	0.266645	14.870000
Brunei	Dollar	0.484642	0.578905	32.283800
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000099	0.000118	0.006600
Thailand	Baht	0.020992	0.025075	1.398400
UAE	Dirham	0.227944	0.272279	15.184200
Euro	Euro	1	1.194500	66.613700
ArgentinaPeso	0.284269	0.339559	18.936200	
Brazil	REAL	0.284558	0.339905	18.955500
Denmark	Kroner	0.134394	0.160534	8.952500
India	Rupee	0.018267	0.021820	1.216800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220337	0.263193	14.677500
Mexico	New Peso	0.073734	0.088075	4.911700
New Zealand	Dollar	0.536785	0.641190	35.757200
Norway	Kroner	0.122455	0.146272	8.157200
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014661	0.017513	0.976600
South Africa	Rand	0.130553	0.155945	8.696600
Korea	Won	0.000697	0.000832	0.046400
Sweden	Kroner	0.110906	0.132477	7.387800
Syria	Pound	0.016255	0.019417	1.082800
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024565	0.029343	1.636400
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000525	0.000627	0.035000

RP-Korea air talks collapse

DAVAO CITY—The Philippines-Korea air negotiations held here late Thursday afternoon collapsed after the two panels failed to agree on some major issues including the system for flight entitlement for the Philippines.

In a press statement, the Department of Transportation and Communication yesterday confirmed the stalemate.

"Earnest efforts on the part of both delegations to bridge these differences proved unsuccessful. Both parties agreed to terminate the air talks in order to study the various proposals more thoroughly," the statement said.

One of the main points of disagreement was the Philippine panel's proposal to change the basis for determining the entitlements in the air routes between the two countries from the number of flights to seats so that the exchange would be fair.

The Philippine panel, led by DOTC Undersecretary Edward Harun, said Korean airlines use bigger aircraft than their Philippine counterparts, thus, using flights as a basis would be unfair.

But the Korean panel, led by Koo Bon Hwan, director of the Ministry of Construction and Transportation, did not agree to the Philippines' proposal saying that the Korean panel had no mandate to change the present set-up for the entitlements.

Harun said the Korean panel insisted on the status quo.

A local daily quoted Tomas Manalac, executive director of the Civil Aeronautics Board, as saying the Philippine panel also insisted on flight entitlements for Davao, considering the increasing number of Koreans visiting Southern Mindanao. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Breaktime

From page B2

any money-making deal.

* * *

MANY others did, and in fact, even former presidents and even a future president did. Poe just faded away from the scene after the campaign. I thought it was something.

Also on the day the news on his candidacy came out, the INQUIRER put out an article on him, mainly based on previous articles on the actor, such as one in 1995.

Again, that was in 1995, some eight years ago, when nobody even had a germ of a thought that, someday, Poe would be running for public office.

What I am saying is, those articles were not meant to promote Poe's political plans. This, as we all know, all of the other politicians are wont to do, and more.

* * *

BASED on the article, Poe dropped out to support his family after his father died, and I wonder how many of those putdown analysts had the guts to do the same.

If he started to work at a young age of 15 years, I say that the man must have gone through a lot of hardship. He must have known what it had been like to be poor.

He must have worked hard to earn money. He has succeeded, and succeeded on his own, as he has become a billionaire, without using any political connection.

I cannot say the same about our bigtime businessmen, including all of the present taipans. Somehow there was political connection in their history.

Moreover, not a single president of ours, both the former ones and the present, even including Wrist Band, can ever claim those things. They grew up comfortably.

* * *

JUST as an indication of how respected Poe is, well, even among those in the intrigue-plagued, envy-driven movie industry, comedian Dolphy is said to be willing to join the campaign trail for him.

That never happened before. Dolphy never involved himself in politics. He also did not campaign for Wrist Band or for any other actor turned politician.

Something in Poe earned him the respect of people. He must have a way with people. What's that—Fernando had a way?

Anyway, it must be something which is better for us than, say, the character of our present crop of deadly politicians.

Yet the putdown campaign tagged him as having no experience in politics, although he ran his own multimillion-peso businesses, which made him more experienced than the widow Corazon Aquino, for instance, and we survived Tita Cory.

* * *

AND so what spooked the financial markets, or better yet, what made Poe vulnerable to the putdown campaign?

I guess it was because nobody in the local and international financial scene really knew him that well.

Look, when he declared his candidacy at the Manila Hotel, he was surrounded by a lot of unknowns in the political and business scene.

The only political personality there was Sen. Vicente Sotto III, a.k.a. Tito, who also was not funny that day, since he was not accompanied by Vic and Joey.

* * *

POE could have worked on his credibility from the start, as his imported counterparts did, the likes of Arnold Schwarzenegger or Ronald Reagan.

When Schwarzenegger, famous for the movie role of "Terminator," ran for governor of California, he also became a putdown target as the "Governator."

From the start, therefore, he announced a whole string of experts who were helping him, including the investment guru Warren Buffet.

And California, mind you, is the fifth largest economy in the world. Meaning, it is hundreds of times bigger than the Philippine economy.

* * *

OR take Brazil which, like the Philippines, is going through rough times because of worries in the financial markets over its huge, impossible national debts.

In the most recent elections in Brazil, the markets also panicked. Believed then about to win hands down was a radical oppositionist. Again, RADICAL!

Immediately, the candidate announced his economic program. It turned out to be no different from the one of the ruling party, which was doing all the putdown.

Moreover, as the campaign moved on, it became clear that the supposedly RADICAL candidate had the popularity to back up the program of national sacrifice.

* * *

AND so, Poe, if you are listening, I think it was not your character which the markets feared, but rather it was the deadly silence on your plans and vision.

For that matter, I guess all of our candidates must come out with their own economic reform programs. I mean, not just Poe, okay!

At least we have something to judge them by later, when nothing may happen to us again, just like under this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

Debates, such as the one sponsored by the PCCI, are good. The candidates can voice out their plans.

But as always, political debates are just like show biz. Whatever they say there are forgotten after three months and 17 days. Let's have something in writing please.

APPLICATION FOR IMMIGRATION TO CANADA
(Page B12)

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1	316i	2003	Steel Gray	5,000 kms	1,375,000
2	316i	2003	Orient Blue	2,000 kms	1,390,000
3	316i	2003	Titanium Silver	1,000 kms	1,425,000
4	318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	13,000 kms	1,590,000
5	318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	8,000 kms	1,630,000
6	318i Limousine	2003	Steel Gray	1,000 kms	1,650,000
7	318i Limousine	2003	Orient Blue	4,000 kms	1,675,000
8	318i Limousine	2003	Titanium Silver	5,000 kms	1,675,000
9	318i Sport	2003	Titanium Silver	5,000 kms	2,100,000
10	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	12,000 kms	2,300,000
11	325i	2003	Titanium Silver	3,000 kms	2,375,000
12	325i Sport	2003	Imola Red	3,000 kms	2,475,000
13	525i	2001	Orient Blue	7,000 kms	2,500,000
14	525i	2002	Titanium Silver	18,000 kms	2,550,000
15	525i	2002	Black Sapphire	13,000 kms	2,600,000
16	520i	2003	Titanium Silver	2,000 kms	2,650,000
17	Z4	2003	Black Sapphire	5,000 kms	2,950,000
18	525i	2003	Toledo Blue	8,000 kms	3,100,000
19	745Li	2002	Black Sapphire	14,000 kms	6,500,000

Other BMW Pre-Owned Cars

	Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Price
1	316i	1997	Boston Green	63,000 kms	685,000
2	320i	1997	Calypso Red	60,000 kms	840,000
3	525i	1995	Alpine White	54,000 kms	850,000
4	318tds	1996	Arktis Silver	52,000 kms	875,000
5	320i	1998	Arktis Silver	68,000 kms	880,000
6	X53.0i	2001	Black Sapphire	34,000 kms	3,100,000

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2003

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Making presentations with professional impact

THE PRESSURE'S on. It's the morning of your presentation, and you have all the things you need with you, but a case of last-minute jitters sets in. before you end up a nervous wreck and spoil all that you have worked for, take the moment to relax, concentrate, and look put-together.

There are ways, especially for novice presentors, to overcome performance anxiety (if they are facing a panel or large audience) or to hurdle any apprehensions that may get in the way of a dynamite presentation.

Whether it's a one-on-one presentation, speaking in front of a class, or at the boardroom, delivering presentations with professional impact reap the best results, making the entire exercise worthwhile for everybody.

Focus on tested techniques to set the perfect tone - right from the start. One must dress appropriately and avoid unnecessary mannerisms. Content-wise, the most successful presentors aver that topnotch school or business presentation is equal parts information and entertainment. For most, the perfect mix of information, graphics, pacing and "off-the-cuff" humor does the job. It is vital to have hands-on information on everything from defining the situation to developing the right mix of visual aids. It certainly helps that the person making the presentation exude confidence and be thoroughly updated. Be genuinely inclined to interest and engage the audience without overpowering them.

Communications masters also provide these additional helpful hints in the use of visual aids for greater impact.

Less is better. Widespread overuse of presentation graphics has marginalized speakers or presentors' effectiveness with live audiences. Use a few well-conceived visuals that are memorable, rather than many ordinary, boring charts or slides.

Keep the number of words per visual to a minimum. Better still, use short phrases or single words in bold type that can be seen clearly from the back row.

Use attractive, professional quality folders and binders. Part and parcel of an effective presentation is creating a good first impression. The right attire, a self-assured look and posture, plus quality organizing solutions - all contribute to put-together look. Remember that the packaging of your report creates such as much an expression as the way you dress up and look, so opt for paraphernalia with modern design elements, like Kokuy, a prestigious line of carrying cases, CD binders, file boxes, albums, tube files, letter piles, letter envelopes, sketch books, clear books, magazines boxes, staplers, punchers and other functional items. Kokuyo is the "Armani" of binders, folders, school and office gear which are not only functional but stylish as well, coming in a pleasing assortment of vibrant colors that lend a creative and professional impact.

Use color to highlight key points. The method of presenting key points, while it should not distract, need not be drab.

Explain exactly what each visual means so the audience doesn't have to guess. Even if its fairly obvious what's on the chart, it's a good habit to repeat it verbally, this adding reinforcement to key points.

When possible use your hand to point to visuals.

When you're through with a visual, cover it up. Don't give the audience something to distract from what you're saying now. Visual aids are important, but avoid cluttering your overall presentation or message with too many of them.

In school or at the workplace, Kokuyo makes a reliable companion in delivering presentations with ease and professional impact.

Kokuyo products can be found at National Bookstore branches, Expressions outlets, Office Warehouse, Honya, Sketchbook, De La Salle University and College of St. Benilde Bookstores. For inquiries, call up Beawmont Distributions Inc at telephone numbers 743-5220 or 743-5236.

P&G SUPPORTS DEPED AND DOH DRIVE ON HEALTH AND HYGIENE

Procter & Gamble (P&G), through its flagship brand Safeguard, recently turned over to the Departments of Education and Health P1.5 million worth of posters and stickers on hand washing in support of the two departments' awareness campaigns on proper health and hygiene among children. Shown during the turn-over rites are, from left: P&G's external relations manager Asia Yap, senior external relations manager Romana Co, DepEd health and nutrition division chief Dr. Ma. Corazon Dumlao and Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit. Interested private schools may request for posters and stickers from DepEd health and nutrition director Thelma Santos at (02) 633-7245.

GRACIA BURNHAM ON SIM

In the Presence of My Enemies, written by American missionary and ex-Abu Sayyaf hostage Gracia Burnham (with Dean Merril) and distributed locally by OMF Lit Inc, continues to inspire and encourage readers nationwide. The book was on the National Book Store bestsellers list for the months of June and August 2003. Burnham was also featured in Sunday Inquirer Magazine story written by Penny Azarcon-dela Cruz. Shown in photo with a copy of the SIM are (from left) Gracia Burnham, OMF Lit CEO Ramon Rocha and Tyndale House Publishers' Doug Walton.

BayanTrade awards Nortel Networks

BAYANTRADE announced that telecommunications equipment company Nortel Networks has been presented the "Highest Value Pass Through Supplier Award for 2002". The company recorded the highest transaction value than any other supplier at BayanTrade.

Nortel Networks participates in BayanTrade's electronic bidding or online auctions - a service that allows multiple sellers to bid for the materials or services requirements of a buying organization through the Internet. The company started selling at BayanTrade in 2001. At present, there are approximately 2,000 BayanTrade online merchants.

From January 2002 to July this year, Nortel Networks had closed a number of contracts, the latest was for PLDT which required them to upgrade and expand PLDT's digital fiber optic network to enhance service.

Bidding over the Internet is several times faster than the traditional bidding process that often takes several months to complete. "The bidding preparation process took one week and the actual bidding process was completed in three hours. That definitely speeds up procurement time for both buyers and suppliers," said Antonio Pio De Roda, managing, director, the Philippines, Nortel Networks.

"Conducting online auctions allows quicker processing of transactions, a more transparent bidding process, and more professional interaction between buyers and suppliers. Although online selling still accounts for a small percentage of our overall sales revenues, we will continue to leverage the tremendous business opportunities it offers to the company.

BayanTrade president Dante Briones explained that complex, bundled goods and services can be cost effectively marketed and sold online. "It used to be simple, off-the-shelf products that were regularly purchased online. But now, even sophisticated, multipart bids that combine both products and manpower services can be processed via the Internet. This is because more buyers and suppliers have become aware of and are leveraging the business advantages of Internet procurement. Those advantages are speed of transactions, process efficiencies and costs savings."

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF MACO (COMPOSTELA VALLEY), INC.

1. Starting November 28, 2003, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed Rural Bank of Maco (Compostela Valley), Inc.

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from November 28 to December 09, 2003, to file claims for insured deposits.

   PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank on the above cited dates to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Monday to Friday.

   After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail addressed to-

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue
   1231 Makati City

3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposits.
   b. Latest identification documents (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Maco (Compostela Valley), Inc. is on **April 30, 2005**. After **April 30, 2005**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI–Nov. 27 & 29, 2003)

UNI-AIR EXHIBIT

A Uni-Air Philippines Inc marketing man explains the distinct features of Uni-Air airconditioners and filters on display at the recent Women's World Exhibit at World Trade Center. On display included Uni-Air split type aircon with electrostatic filter and Uni-Air window-type aircon-filter with three-stage purification process. Both deals effectively with indoor pollution. Others on display were Uni-Air air filters which are effective against indoor germs and viruses.

Perfume-Making Seminar

Clips

LEARN how to make colognes and body spray through a one-day hands-on perfumery workshop/seminar by Chemworld, one of the largest importers of personal and household care ingredients in the Philippines. Participants can choose from three seminar schedules - Nov. 29, Dec. 2 and Dec. 5. Training starts at 9:30 a.m. up to 4:30 p.m. and will be held at the Training Room of the Chemworld/Godiva office, 5th Floor Oppen Building, 349 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Investment is only P1,000, inclusive of handbook and fragrance kit. For details and inquiries about discounts for groups of three or more, contact Catherine Alfalfara at 890-9844 to 47 local 14/38, 0917-8736547, 0917-8736548 or 0916-6902280.

Rizal Award slated today

DOING the greatest good for the greatest number of people, without any thought of material compensation, is certainly a mean feat especially in a country wracked by various economic and socio-political woes. Yet, a number of these special individuals persist in their selfless service, each one is deserving to be nominated as a finalist in the upcoming Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award. The annual award is bestowed upon an outstanding Filipino physician whose life and work embody the ideals of the national hero. Unilab, the leading pharmaceutical company in the country, together with its partners the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) and the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practioners (Stamp), presents five such notable Filipinos who reflect Rizal's love for God and country and selfless service to fellowmen, especially the poor and underprivileged. The awarding ceremony will be today, Nov. 29, at Edsa Shangri-La Plaza.

'Masayang Magbasa' ongoing

ADARNA House, the country's leading children's book publishing firm, in cooperation with Goodwill Book Store and McDonald's, is offering the "Masayang Magbasa: a workshop for Parents and Teachers on Beginning Reading", today, on its last installment. The workshop is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Goodwill Book Store Glorietta, Kiddie Camp. For a purchase of Adarna's Big Books, interested parties are entitled to the free workshop (depending on available slots). Adarna's Big Books are available in all Goodwill Book Store branches. For inquiries, call Aneka Rodriguez at 372-3548 loc. 110.

ProductFILES

Power on court and off

RUDY Hatfield, the 6'3" forward of Coca-Cola, knows that playing in the pros will always be tough but anyone who's ever seen him work the hard court knows that this handsome young man has got game. On the court, though, his game is powered by brawn as much as a little research and a dose of good ol' electrolytes. Sometimes during practice, one may catch him chugging on a can of Powerade (berry ice - his favorite flavor, actually), a helpful little concoction suited for sports enthusiasts. Made from much more than the stuff of science fiction, Hatfield says it really does rejuvenate the body after a long exercise. Powerade is a scientifically-formulated sports drink that gives a thirst-quenching boost. Packed with energy-yielding compounds and specific electrolytes, Powerade provides the minerals and energy needed in long and enduring sports. Powerade comes in a handy 330ml can and in four thirst-quenching flavors: orange, mountain blast, lemon lime and berry ice.

BIOESSENCE 9TH ANNIVERSARY RAFFLE DRAW

Bioessence's 9th anniversary bash is capped off with its grand raffle draw at its main office at 112 LPL Tower Condominium, Legaspi St. Legaspi Village Makati. Gracing the event is Bioessence marketing manager Ellen Halili and clinic supervisor Yolanda Sabangan. She is joined by guests Agnes Banal, Linear Advertising agency representative and Eleanor Perez, DTI representative. Bioessence's fruitful month-long celebration is supported by South East Asian Airlines, Club Noah Isabelle, Manels, Matabungkay Beach Resort, Sulu Hotel, Cadbury, Nestle Phils, Aquasoft (ATT Group of Companies), Cabalen, Gardenia, Bayantel, Wendy's and Wellcom.

THE GREAT NIGHT MARKET

Considered as the blockbuster bargain event of Christmas, The Great Night Market at the Folk Arts grounds opened last Nov. 15 and will run until Jan. 11, 2004. Now on its 5th year, this free-admission bargain extravaganza is open to the public from 8 a.m. onwards. For inquiries call 241-0674 and 241-0794.

2003 Candle Design Awards

PHILTRADE Exhibits in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry, Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines is hosting the 2003 Candle Design Awards. This year's award categories are: best in candle sticks/tapered candles, best in pillar candle, best in votive candles/tea lights and best in hurricane candles. The competition is open to all hobbyists and candle makers and manufacturers all over the country. Final judgment will be today, at the Araneta Center Trade Hall as a highlight of the 5th Angel Sent Bazaar. For details, call 820-7879 or 820-1570 or text 0920-5578561.

'53 UST Pharmacy reunion

CLASS '53 UST Pharmacy will be having its reunion today, as Golden Jubilarians, at the Club Filipino (Greenhills). Registration starts at 9 a.m. Contact Lydia Abastillas Reyes at telephone numbers 415-4315, 415-4366, 721-4457; (cellphone) 0919-431-1000, 0919-515-6519.

On-sale house furnishings

A SPECIAL export overrun sale on world-class mosaic furniture and accessories will be happening on Nov. 29 and 30 at #1 Sampaloc St., Mon-El Subdivision in Parañaque City. The on-sale house furnishings are the same product ranges that grace contemporary and traditional homes both in Europ and the United States. The products on sale reflect the ability to blend western design and high quality American stained glass with Filipino craftsmanship to create world-class products for today's home. For information call 826-4522. All showroom items are for sale at special prices only during the 2-day sale and while stocks last.

Makati HS Class '78 reunion

CALLING all members of the Makati High School, Class 1978, there will be a reunion tonight, at 7 p.m. Venue is at Club Prince, 4th floor, Inocencio Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati. For details, contact Cely Buendia Samson at telephone numbers 679-1072 or 0920-841-5792.

BSP says forex reserve still at $16B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said that the gross international reserves remained above $16 billion this month contrary to speculation that it had been tapping into the country's modest dollar arsenal to prop up the peso.

"The GIR is still above $16 billion this month. We would end the year with $16 billion," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Another central bank official said the GIR in November was "looking good" and might even beat this year's highest level of $16.89 billion (recorded in October) following the inflow of $1.55 billion from government and BSP borrowings.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr., however, believed that the dollar reserves this month could not exceed the October level.

Traders said the central bank had been using the external reserves extensively in the last two weeks to defend the peso by selling huge amounts of dollars in the spot market although the BSP had also been buying dollars during quiet periods for the peso.

The BSP intervention, they said, had been ranging from $10 million to $30 million in the last two weeks to avert an exaggerated depreciation of the peso. The local currency had plunged to its lowest at 55.85 to a dollar last Thursday following the announcement of Fernando Poe Jr.'s presidential bid.

This month, the government deposited another $250 million in the BSP vaults from the proceeds of a three-year bond sale. But Buenaventura said the BSP and the government had also been settling their maturing obligations.

Buenaventura was hoping that the government would complete this year its remaining $800-million financing requirement for 2004 but recent political events had made the cost of Philippine borrowings more expensive.

Spreads on Philippine dollar bonds had widened by almost 100 basis points since Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho announced his resignation last Nov. 21.

The true level of the external reserves is important to the psychology of the financial markets. A declining GIR usually puts pressure on the peso as it implies the weakness of the central bank to defend the local currency against speculation.

At $16.89 billion in October, the country had enough dollars to pay close to five months' worth of imports of goods and services. It is also equivalent to more than 2.5 times the country's short-term obligations.

Comprised mainly of US dollars, the GIR is the total foreign currency holdings of the central bank, including gold and special drawing rights, the currency used by the International Monetary Fund.

The country's dollar reserves rose to an all-time high of $17.352 billion in March 2002 mainly due to a $1-billion inflow from the national government's bond issue.

Napocor seeks proposals for dollar bond issue

THE CASH-STRAPPED National Power Corp. (Napocor) has asked banks for dollar bond issue proposals for early next year, despite being placed on downgrade review by Moody's Investors Service this week.

"It has sent out RFPs (requests for proposals). It's asking for proposals for financing," a banking source quoted by Reuters in Hong Kong said, adding the deadline was Dec. 5.

Another banking source said Napocor had asked banks how much it could raise in the first quarter of next year. The utility firm needs $1.2 billion to $1.5 billion to fund its operations and pay maturing debt in 2004.

The move came after global ratings agency Moody's had placed the country and Napocor's ratings on review for possible downgrade this week.

Moody's cited rising political risks and worries that the fiscal situation in the country would deteriorate ahead of presidential elections next May.

Markets have also been unnerved by the candidacy of local movie star Fernando Poe Jr. who announced on Wednesday he would run for the presidency. Poe lacks political or economic experience but his popularity makes him a strong challenger to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Last week's announcement of Finance Secretary Jose Camacho's resignation has also caused jitters in the markets.

But Standard & Poor's said on Friday Camacho's resignation had no direct impact on the Philippines' sovereign ratings.

The Philippines is expected to hold a conference call with fixed income investors on Monday to allay their concerns following Camacho's resignation. The call is being arranged by Credit Suisse First Boston. *Reuters*

PLDT: Formidable force in telecom

From page B1

Pangilinan's convergence vision paved the way for heavier investments in businesses other than landlines.

While PLDT already had a cellular phone business as early as 1987, Pangilinan's convergence vision enabled the repackaging of this particular business into the giant that it is now.

Smart Communications Inc., with a subscriber base of more than 12 million as of October and a net income of around P10.3 billion as of the end of the third quarter, is now the country's biggest cellular service provider.

PLDT is also investing heavily in information and communications technology, with the creation of ICT arm ePLDT. The company has also dabbled into broadcasting through Mediaquest Holdings Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund.

Mediaquest has under it radio network Nation Broadcasting Corp., the local version of MTV and second largest cable operator Philippine Home Cable Holdings Inc.

PLDT, through Mediaquest, also almost acquired a controlling stake in second largest broadcasting network GMA Network Inc. in 2001, but the sale did not push through.

Pangilinan, however, never hid the fact that he would love to have a TV network under PLDT. With landlines, mobile phones, Internet, various IT solutions, a cable firm, a music channel and a radio network now all within the PLDT group, a TV station would certainly be icing on the cake.

Aborted hostile takeover

But just when things were starting to look all rosy for the country's dominant carrier, Pangilinan had to face one of the biggest corporate dramas in Philippine history when the Gokongweis attempted to take over a controlling stake in PLDT last year.

First Pacific principals, the Indonesian Salim family, decided to sell their 24.47-percent stake in the company to the Gokongweis, who owned PLDT rival Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

Not to be dislodged just like that, Pangilinan and Tonyboy, backed by the PLDT board of directors, thwarted the takeover attempt by refusing to allow the Gokongweis to conduct a due-diligence audit on the firm.

They reasoned that it would not be fair to the company's shareholders to allow competitors to see the company's books, including some of its trade secrets. Also, the board invoked the provision in the PLDT by-laws, which stated that no competitor could sit on the PLDT board.

History then repeated itself for Gokongwei as the same rule that the San Miguel Corp. board of directors used in 1976 to thwart his entry into the company's board became one of the strongest defenses that the PLDT board used against him more than two decades later.

The exclusivity period on the sale offer for a majority stake in PLDT lapsed on Sept. 30, 2002, without the Gokongweis gaining access to the company's books. The takeover attempt was then declared over.

Moving forward

More than a year later, PLDT has become an even more formidable force in the telecommunications industry. Buoyed by Smart's sterling performance these past quarters, PLDT has become one of the country's most profitable firms.

Pangilinan envisions an even stronger PLDT, both in profits and management, in the years to come. While concentrating on achieving this, however, he has also set his sights on some new grounds to tread.

By the first quarter of next year, PLDT could be looking at its sixth president in more than seven decades. Pangilinan said that he could be taking the place of Tonyboy as PLDT chair, while Smart president and chief executive Napoleon Nazareno would sit as president.

Tonyboy, Pangilinan said, had decided to focus his attention on his newly acquired broadcasting firm Associated Broadcasting Corp.

While no formal announcements have really been made, an internal memo is already circulating around the company, informing them of Pangilinan's eventual resignation as PLDT president and chief executive.

All these are taking place while the company is continuing to achieve significant milestones. At 75, PLDT has been through a lot. It has endured a world war, the Asian financial crisis, a corporate takeover attempt and five different presidents.

There are surely more exciting things in store for the company in the future. At the rate things are going, this 75-year-old firm looks as if it can take on anything that will come its way.

Group backs tariff on imported cement

THE DECISION of Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II to maintain the current tariff on cement imports has drawn another support, this time from a multisectoral group.

In a letter to Roxas, the Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection (CACP) reiterated its support to Roxas for maintaining the safeguard measures that protects the local cement industry from the influx of imported cement.

CACP is a multisectoral non-government organization (NGO) with thousands of partners in industry, services and agriculture. It is among the few in the country who are members of Consumer International (CI), the latter having a consultative status with the United Nations.

"We reiterate our support to you for maintaining the current tariff on cement imports, without which the local cement industry may collapse given the excess capacity in the region," said Raul E. Segovia, chair of the CACP.

Segovia also urged Roxas to keep the current tariff remedies on cement as the consumers and thousands of workers in the industry will reap the short- and long-term benefits of such decision.

"We strongly believe there are short-term and long-term benefits resulting from your decision to defend local industries from unfair trade," Segovia stressed.

Since the imposition of a P20.60 corrective tariff per 40-kg bag of imported cement, local cement prices have decreased by 11.7 percent based on the latest data from the National Statistics Office (NSO).

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY-HEAD AND NECK SURGERY, INC.

47TH ANNUAL CONVENTION, November 29-December 2, 2003

The Westin Philippine Plaza, CCP Complex, Manila

THEME: CURRENT STANDARDS IN ENT-HNS PRACTICE

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Philippine Society of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery to welcome the delegates to our 47th Annual Convention. This year's convention theme: "Current Standards in ENT-HNS Practice", gives all of us, the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of our specialty in uplifting the quality and standards of our health care delivery and renew our friendship among colleagues and guests.

I would like to thank and congratulate this year's Over-all Convention Chair, Dr. Randy Cañal, and the organizing committee, for preparing a very innovative and comprehensive scientific program, as well as fun-filled and entertaining social and sports programs.

We, at the PSO-HNS, are also grateful to our friends in the pharmaceutical industry and other benefactors, who have always been with the PSO-HNS in all our endeavors, for having immensely contributed to the success of our convention.

Once again, welcome! Mabuhay and God bless the PSO-HNS

CESAR V. VILLAFUERTE, JR., MD, MHA
President, PSO-HNS

Colleagues and Friends! It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to our annual pre- Christmas Convention. I am sure that everybody has been anticipating the staging of this well-loved tradition that has, through the years, come to mean many different things for us Otolaryngologists. We have always brought home with us a treasure trove of fond memories and relevant learnings from these annual gatherings. The well-planned Scientific and Socials menu laid out for our consumption promises to be both stimulating and filling. Let me be the first to assure you that this year's convention committee has laboured good and hard to set the stage for another memorable meeting – the rest is up to you!

JESUS RANDY O. CAÑAL, MD
Over-all Chair
47TH Annual Convention
Organizing Committee

November 28 – Friday

6-9am	PSO-HNS Golf Tournament - Sponsored by: RBC *Orchard Golf and Country Club*

November 29 – Saturday

7-12nn	PSO-HNS Sportfest - Sponsored by: PROHNS *Amoranto Stadium, Roces Ave. Quezon City*
1:30-4pm	Registration Sponsored by: Unicare of UNILAB
4-5 pm	MASS
5-6 pm	Opening & Blessing of Exhibits • Dr. & Mrs. Jesus Randy O. Cañal • Dr. & Mrs. Cesar V. Villafuerte Jr.
6-7:30 pm	Opening Ceremonies • Keynote Speaker: Francisco T. Duque III, MD President & CEO, PHIC
7:30-12mn	Cocktails - Sponsored by: Hexal Phils Inc. • Words from the Sponsor • Induction of New Officers - Bicol Chapter, Northwestern Mindanao Chapter, Southeastern Mindanao Chapter • Induction of New Diplomates • Induction of New Fellows *Attire: Filipiniana; Venue: Luzon*

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Jose Antonio M. Santos, MD - *Mindanao*

December 1 – Monday

7-9am	Analytical Research Contest - Sponsored by: GlaxoSmithKline *Venue: Rombion/Mindoro*	Free Papers *Venue: Sulu*
9-9:30	Coffee Break - Sponsored by: GlaxoSmithKline	
9:30-11	Plenary Session: Otology - DOMINADOR M. ALMEDA JR. MD MEMORIAL LECTURE Topic: 1. "CPG's for CSOM Without Cholesteatoma" Speaker: Jose M. Acuin, MD 2."Hearing Preservation and Restoration in Acoustic Tumor NF2" Speaker: Prof. Vittorio Colleti, MD Chair: Charlotte M. Chiong, MD; ,Co-chair: Raymond G. Belmonte, MD *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	
11-12nn	Plenary Session: Rhinology; Topic: "Maximal Medical Management of Rhinosinusitis & Nasal Polyposis" Speaker: Pontus Stierna, MD; Chair: Gil M. Vicente, MD; Co-chair: Anne Marie V. Espiritu, MD *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	
12-1:30pm	Lunch Symposium, Topic: "Medical Treatment in Meniere's Disease: Avoiding Vestibular Neurectomy and Facilitating Postoperative Compensation" Speaker: Prof. Vittorio Colleti, MD; Sponsored by: Schwy Pharma *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	
1:30-3	Interactive Session: Otology Topic: "Diagnosis & Management of Pediatric Hearing Impaired Patients" Moderator: Elmer dela Cruz,MD,M.Cl.Aud Co-moderator: Ronald V. Javier,MD,M.Cl.Aud Panelists: Hubert Ramos,M.Cl.Aud; Nildd Go,M.Cl.Aud; Ma. Georgina Mojica, MHPEd, Nathaniel W. Yang, MD *Venue: Luzon*	Interactive Session: Rhinology Topic: "Intra operative Decision Making in ESS" Moderator: Benjamin S.A. Camporanes Jr. MD Co-moderator: Pontus Stierna, MD Panelists: Balwant Singh Gendeh, MD; Peter R. Jarin, MD; Gil M. Vicente, MD; Josefino G. Hernandez, MD *Venue: Mindanao*
3-3:30	Coffee Break - Sponsored by: Pfizer	
3:30-5	Symposium: Otology Topic: 1. "CPG on the Diagnosis of Vertigo" Speaker: Charlotte M. Chiong, MD 2."Central Auditory Processing Deficits in Children" Speaker: Philip Newall, PhD 3. "Management of Hearing Loss in the Elderly" Speaker: Sonja Kremer, MD Chair: Jose A. Malanyaon Jr., MD Co-chair: Nathaniel W. Yang, MD *Venue: Luzon*	Symposium: Rhinology Topic: 1."Controversies in Adjunctive Mgt for Rhinosinusitis" Speaker: Josefino G. Hernandez, MD 2. "Standard in Diagnosing Allergic Rhinitis" Speaker: Peter R. Jarin, MD 3. "Repair of Nasal CSF Leak" Speaker: Balwant Singh Gendeh, MD Chair: Josefino G. Hernandez, MD Co-chair: Cecile C. Capinpin, MD *Venue: Mindanao*
7-12mn	PSO-HNS Business Meeting - Sponsored by: Essex *Venue: Luzon*	Resident's Night - Sponsored by: UCB *Venue: Amoranto, Manila*

November 30 – Sunday

7-9am	Descriptive Research Contest - Sponsored by: UCB Pharma *Venue: Rombion / Mindoro*	Free Papers *Venue: Sulu*
9-9:30	Coffee Break	
9:30-10:15	Interactive Session: Laryngology Topic: "Neuromuscular Disorders of the Larynx" Moderator: Patrick Henry S. Enriquez, MD Co-moderator: Ma. Clarissa S. Fortuna, MD Panelists: Kiminori Sato, MD, William L. Lim, MD; Virgilio R. de Gracia, MD, Ludwig Damian, MD Nadine Sy, MD *Venue: Luzon*	Interactive Session: Oncology Topic: "Adjuvant Management for Head and Neck Cancer" Moderator: Jesus Randy O. Cañal, MD Co-Moderator: Jeannette Marie S. Matsuo, MD Panelists: Johanna Cañal, MD Jaime Rojo, MD *Venue: Mindanao*
10:15-11	Interactive Session: Laser Surgery Topic: "Laser Application in Rhinology" Moderator: Natividad A. Almazan-Aguilar, MD Co-moderator: Michael Alexius A. Sarte, MD Panelists: Ramon Antonio B. Lopa, MD, Benjamin S.A. Camporanes Jr. MD, Cesar V. Villafuerte Jr. MD Ruben G. Henson, MD *Venue: Luzon*	
11-1	Lunch Symposium - Topic: "Neuropathic Pain: Mechanism-Based Management" Speaker: Francis Javier, MD Sponsored by: Pfizer *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	
1-1:45	Plenary Session: Laryngology ANGELE ENRIQUEZ, MD MEMORIAL LECTURE Topic: "Vocal Fold Atrophy & Augmentation Surgery of Larynx Histopathological and Clinical Aspects" Speaker: Kiminori Sato, MD, Chair: William L. Lim, MD, Co-chair: Ma. Clarissa S. Fortuna, MD *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	
1:45-3	Plenary Session: Oncology - Topic: "Head and Neck, Past, Present, and Future" Speaker: Jatin Shah, MD, Chair: Jesus Randy O. Cañal, MD; Co-chair: Joselito F. David, MD *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	
3-3:30	Coffee Break - Sponsored by: Hi Eisai	
3:30-5	Symposium: Laryngology Topic: 1." Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing" Speaker: Ma. Clarissa S. Fortuna, MD 2." Efficacy of Rabeprazole in the Treatment of LPR" Speaker: William L. Lim, MD 3."Strategies for LPRD Management" Speaker: Kiminori Sato, MD 4. "Local CPG for LPR" Speaker: Melfred L. Hernandez, MD Symposium: Laser Surgery Topic: 1. "Laser of Benign Otorhinolaryngologic Conditions" Speaker: Emmanuel L. Ibay, MD Chair: Rene S. Tuazon, MD Co-chair: Victoria C. Sarmiento, MD Sponsored by: Hi Eisai *Venue: Luzon*	Symposium: Oncology Topic: 1. "Dealing with Post Op Complications in Head and Neck Surgery" Speaker: Joselito F. David, MD 2. "Management of the No Neck" Speaker: Jesus Randy O. Cañal, MD 3. "Thyroid and Salivary Glands Updates" Speaker: Daniel M.Alonzo, MD Chair: Alfredo Q.Y. Pontejos Jr., MD Co-chair: Armando M. Chiong Jr., MD *Venue: Rombion*
7-12mn	Fellowship Night - Sponsored by: Schering Plough (Key Division) Attire: RETRO *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	

December 2 – Tuesday

7-9:30am	Medquiz Contest - Sponsored by: GlaxoSmithKline *Venue: Rombion/Mindoro*	
9:30-10	Coffee Break - Sponsored by: GlaxoSmithKline	
10-10:45	Plenary Session: General ENT; Topic: "TMJ Disorders: Current Diagnosis and Management" Speaker: Roberto M. Pangan, DMD, MD, PhD; Cynthia Quismundo, DMD; Chair: Felix P. Nolasco, MD; Co-chair: Jose Florencio F. Lapeña Jr., MD *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	
10:45-11:30	Plenary Session: Facial Plastic CESAR F. VILLAFUERTE SR. MD MEMORIAL LECTURE Topic: "Facial Rejuvenation"; Speaker: Corazon Cotiantes Jose, MD, Chair: Francis V. Roxas, MD; Co-chair: Howard M. Enriquez, MD *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	
11:30-1pm	Lunch Symposium; Topic: "Macrolide Immunomodulation and Induction of Resistance" Speaker: Leonardo C. Mangahas Jr., MD - Sponsored by: Abbott *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	
1-2:30	Interactive Session: General ENT Topic: "Fungal Infections in ENT" Moderator: Virgilio R. de Gracia, MD Co-moderator: Lily L. Sia-Vargas, MD Panelists: Adrian Peña, MD; Alejandro Opulencia, MD; Josefina Cardona, MD; Disraeli Europa, MD *Venue: Sulu*	Interactive Session: Maxillofacial Trauma Topic: "Frontal Sinus Fracture: Obliterate, Cranialize, or Leave it Alone" Moderator: Ferdinand G. Paminiuan, MD Co-moderator: Joseph Raymond S. Tapang, MD Panelists: Roberto M. Pangan, MD; Felix P. Nolasco, MD Eutrapio S. Guevara Jr. MD *Venue: Rombion*
2:30-3	Coffee Break - Sponsored by: Pfizer	
3-4:30	Symposium: General ENT/Special Topics 1."Cobiation for ENT Conditions" Speaker: Gil M. Vicente, MD 2. "Pitfalls in Radiologic Imaging of the Temporal Bone" Speaker: Nathaniel W. Yang, MD 3. "Indications of MRI for ENT-Head and Neck Surgery" Speaker: Kenneth Tan, MD Chair: Edgardo C. Rodriguez Jr., MD Co-chair: Emmanuel S. Samson, MD *Venue: Sulu*	Symposium: Maxillofacial Plastic/Aesthetic 1. "The APTOS Thread Facelift: A New Procedure" Speaker: Victoria G. Belo, MD 2. "Facial Prosthesis" Speaker: Samantha S. Castañeda,MD 3. "Botulinum Toxin Type A for Facial Aesthetic Enhancement: Role in Facial Shaping" Speaker: Joseph Amado C. Galvez, MD Chair: Eduardo C. Yap, MD Co-chair: Jonathan Pineda, MD *Venue: Rombion*
7-12mn	Congress Banquet - Sponsored by: Solvay Pharma *Venue: Luzon-Mindanao*	

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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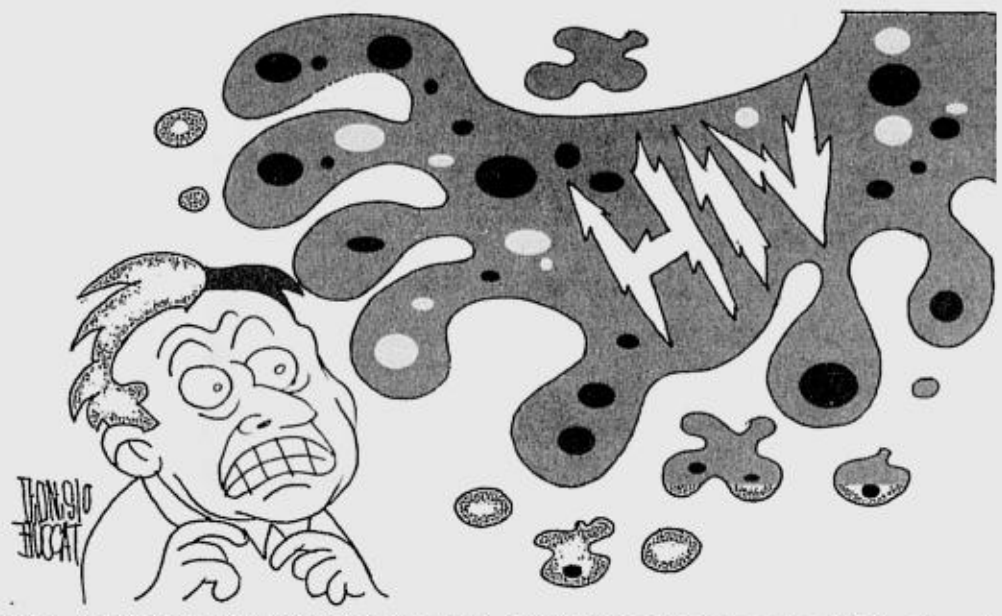
The fear factor in the spread of HIV

By Tessa R. Salazar

FEAR is a strong, unpleasant emotion caused by expectations or awareness of danger. The climate of fear encourages the spread of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), said the World Health Organization.

Along with ignorance, denial and intolerance about HIV/AIDS in Asia, fear is creating an environment where the disease can easily spread. Those who fall victim to HIV are fearful of approaching proper authorities—afraid of being discriminated upon or rejected.



Social effects

Prejudice and rejection are the social effects of HIV infection that even a miracle drug cannot cure, said Dr. Shigeru Omi, World Health Organization regional director for the western Pacific.

Discrimination comes through denial of the sufferer's basic human rights, such as the opportunity for livelihood and education.

The WHO observed that sex workers have long been marginalized, and homosexual behavior was not acceptable in many societies. Because of these attitudes, the existence of the problem is sometimes denied, heightening the risk of the disease spreading deeper into the community.

Cultural or religious beliefs and educational attainment also add to the social stigma, says WHO. It cited how drug users have been tagged as social outcasts in some parts of Asia.

Omi stressed that blaming people and making moral judgments do not help stop the disease from spreading. He added that this can even help spread the disease as such vulnerable groups tend to hide more, making the opportunity to educate them about the disease and treat their ills impossible.

Stigma

WHO cited a recent study of wealthy patients in Kampala, Uganda that found that the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS deterred some from continuing treatment because they feared discrimination and the loss of privacy. The study also found out that people often chose to remain untested even if they were at risk of contracting HIV because of the general climate of fear.

The fear of social discrimination is not the only kind of fear hounding persons suspected with HIV. The fear of being diagnosed with HIV also hinders one from seeking help.

"Just the fear of what your status is could help spread the infection, because if you don't know you are already positive, then you continue to have sex with other people," said Dr. Consortia Quizon, leader for the Department of Health's infectious diseases department.

She added that the other kind of fear is borne out of ignorance—the fear of not knowing. Another is the fear of not being cured even after being diagnosed and treated.

Fear is just a reaction to a more underlying factor, she said.

The Philippines averages 10 to 15 new HIV cases per month.

Said Joshua Formetera, founder of Positive Action Foundation Philippines during an INQUIRER interview last year: "As long as we look with derision at men having sex with other men and prostitutes, HIV-infected people won't dare come out and seek help. Even if you establish hospitals and services, no one will avail themselves of these services because these people have been stigmatized. As they say, it's better to die without shame than to endure a lifetime scorned by society."

HIV can be contracted by sexual intercourse, blood transfusion and sharing needles with an infected person. An infected mother has a 25 to 30 percent chance to pass on the virus to her unborn children.

Increasing number

The western Pacific region, which includes the Philippines, accounts for 1.4 million of the world's 40 million HIV/AIDS cases, but WHO officials believe the number will grow unless social discrimination is checked.

Of the 40 million people infected worldwide, two-thirds live in Africa. Ninety five percent of those infected live in developing countries.

The DOH National Epidemiology Center reported that for the month of August, 15 new HIV cases were reported, bringing to 91 the total number of registered HIV/AIDS patients this year and to 1,921 cases since 1984. Of the total number of patients, 255 have died due to AIDS-related complications.

HIV-positive puppet 'champion for children'

GENEVA—The United Nations Children's Fund has appointed an HIV-positive puppet who stars in the South African version of Sesame Street as a "global champion for children."

Kami, a furry yellow puppet who regularly appears on the children's TV program Takalani Sesame, represents a 5-year-old girl who has been orphaned by AIDS. Unicef said she "has brought levity and compassion to a topic that so often evokes the opposite."

Messages of acceptance

Kami will help promote messages of acceptance and an end to stigma for HIV/AIDS sufferers around the world in a way that is appropriate to the age group, Unicef said. It also announced a partnership with the Sesame Workshop, which gives creative support to the South African makers of Takalani Sesame.

"The appeal of the partnership is that through characters like Kami, we can highlight areas where children are particularly vulnerable—from illiteracy to disability and abuse—in ways that are gentle, honest and compassionate," said Unicef executive director Carol Bellamy.

First appearance

Kami made her first appearance for Unicef on Wednesday when she helped launch a new Unicef report, "Africa's Orphaned Generation" which details the impact of HIV/AIDS on children in Africa.

HIV/AIDS is increasingly affecting the very young, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, Unicef said.

In 2002, 800,000 children under the age of 15 became HIV-positive. The huge majority of those were infected at birth and most will die before the age of 5.

In addition, AIDS among adults is creating a massive orphan crisis. By 2010, the UN estimates that there will be 20 million children in sub-Saharan Africa who have lost at least one parent to the disease.

AP

ACTRESS Whoopi Goldberg gets a hug from Kami, the HIV positive puppet from South Africa's "Takalani Sesame," a locally produced version of the children's program, Sesame Street. AP

Math education in RP: indigenous math

(First of three parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

THE PRINCIPLES of math are universal, but applications vary from region to region. Unlike the historical centers of math learning, such as China, India and Russia, the Philippines cannot really boast of many major discoveries.

However, we have our share of unique math practices, especially in the rural areas, as revealed during the "Mathematics Education in the Philippine Context" conference spearheaded by the Philippine Council of Mathematics Teacher Educators (Mathted) Inc. in Benguet State University last October.

Dr. Teofina Rapanut of the University of the Philippines Baguio has studied ethnomathematics (traditional math practiced by indigenous or local people) since 1996. She and her team have studied their environment and eventually discovered math ideas such as number, logic and spatial configuration in traditional architecture, kinship relations, ornamentation and spiritual practice.

Geometry and art

From the south comes Dr. Rochelle Mariano of Ateneo de Zamboanga University, who has studied the math behind the famous Badjao mat-weavers in Caragasan, Zamboanga City. Dr. Mariano observed the community (social milieu, cultural activities, ethnic grouping and social interaction).

"Cultural beliefs and practices embedded in their mat designs, the underlying ideas and meanings in specific geometric figures in the design, the mathematical tools involved, the techniques, mnemonic aids, gadgets or devices used in the creation of geometric designs were taken into consideration," she said.

Another professor who joins geometry and art is my friend, Dr. Ma. Louise Antonette de las Penas of the Ateneo de Manila University. She analyzed how group theory is evident in Philippine textile and mats, pottery, hats, spear decorations, music and dance.

She reiterated that math has been used historically in our culture to create repeating patterns. She aimed to provide students "the opportunity to see connections between mathematics and the various arenas of human activity and allow them to develop an understanding of the types of reasoning that form the basis of mathematical thought."

In a developing country like ours, the newfangled tools of math may be out of reach by most of the population. To address this problem, Josefina Fonacier of the National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development ran a hands-on workshop for teachers showing how paper folding could be a tool for teaching and learning geometry—using recycled materials, such as constructing a three-dimensional tetrahedron from an ordinary envelope.

Another innovative educator is Ma. Luisa Mariano of the UP Open University. Dr. Mariano believes that "collaborative effort in building a community of learners is essential in a learning environment to foster quality education. In distance learning, it is crucial to design courses with the use of multimedia appropriate in meeting the learning objectives."

However, this is easier said than done. We lack adequate landlines, Internet connections, computers. Dr. Mariano focused on e-learning tutorial experiences in the UP Open University using different technologies, such as Integrated Virtual Learning Environment discussion boards, chatting and text messages. She also illustrated "pedagogical and teaching strategies which maximized the resources despite the limited income and infrastructure we have in our country."

Pursuit of identity

Truly, math practices cannot help but be influenced by the culture they are embedded in.

De La Salle University professor Dr. Auxencia Limjap, Mathted president, muses, "This pursuit of a truly Filipino identity in mathematics education is inspired by Paolo Freire's claim that 'the world is not static, and members of society, and especially teachers, can discover that they are creators, rather than mere perpetrators of culture.' As we explore the math meanings and negotiations that take place in our classrooms, we can work toward the development of more indigenous forms of math education that cater to our expressed aspirations and needs as a nation. Only then can we fully understand and appreciate the 'Mathematics Education in the Philippine Context.'"

Math learning and teaching strategies were researched and debated upon. Next week we look at some creative teaching strategies pioneered in schools all over the country.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

Ig Nobel and fun

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IT'S TIME for another book review, and this time I've picked Marc Abrahams' "The Ig Nobel Prizes: The Annals of Improbable Research." It's more informative than the Guinness Book of World Records, as fun and easy to read as a Pugad Baboy comic strip, and way, way better than Cats. I take back that last part; I've never seen Cats.

When I got the book, I was advised not to read everything in one sitting. I'm not one of those people who can put down a book once I've started reading it. I do however have to agree with the preface: the book is best read in small portions to spread the joy. To read everything at once is like drinking five cups of espresso in two minutes, and the resulting giddiness and amusement never really goes away.

Who goes to hell?

One of the most fascinating stories in Ig Nobel history has to be that of the Southern Baptist Church of Alabama. In 1994, the community was awarded the Ig Nobel in Mathematics for calculating the number of people in Alabama who would go to hell if they didn't repent—which I can only assume means convert and join the Baptists.

Apparently they also calculated the number of sinners for every US state, but those numbers remain a well-kept secret.

No one from the Southern Baptist Church of Alabama was willing to accept the award, so it was the consul of Norway who walked onstage during the Ig Nobel ceremony and accepted the award on behalf of the tiny Norwegian town called Hell (whose highest public authority is the railroad stationmaster). He said: "We have a special place in Hell for all of you."

Making science fascinating

Abrahams' new book honors 13 years of Ig Nobel Prize recipients. These men and women are recognized for their "achievements that cannot or should not

be reproduced."

These are real studies; much of the work honored has been published in respected journals. The studies are chosen because they're amusing, creative, original and more important, because they "spur people's interest in science, medicine and technology." And I'm all for anything that makes science accessible and fascinating to everyone.

But first, a word about the author. Marc Abrahams has a degree in applied mathematics from Harvard. In 1990, he became the editor of the Journal of Irreproducible Results. When publication costs ended the journal's run, Abrahams co-founded the Annals of Improbable Research. You can find this journal at www.improb.com, and I suggest you read the paper on which came first, the chicken or the egg, and how the contributing author of the study came up with the answer.

I also recommend the book because of the work that won biologist Peter Fong the 1998 Ig Nobel Prize for Biology. While I don't want to give away exactly what he did, news reports say that these days Dr. Fong is giving Viagra to garden snails to find out how to limit their population's growth.

Pepsi's 349

Like the Nobel Prizes, the various achievements recognized by this ceremony also covers fields such as economics and literature. As this is a science column, however, I can't really talk about those.

Still, I will say that in 1993, the Pepsi-Cola company of the Philippines was awarded the Ig Nobel Peace Prize "for sponsoring a contest to create a millionaire, and then announcing the wrong winning number, hereby inciting and uniting 800,000 riotously expectant winners, and bringing many warring factions together for the first time in their nation's history."

I'll admit the awards committee isn't very well informed; I'm sure the 1986 People Power movement brought at least a few million Filipinos together, and that's seven years before the Pepsi 349 debacle. My point, however, is that no one from Pepsi Philippines has ever claimed the award.

I herewith quote Marc's answer when I asked about it: "We tried to find someone from the Pepsi company to accept the Prize, but we were not successful. As winners, they now have a standing invitation to come to the Ig Nobel ceremony. I would love for some company representative to come to the ceremony and accept the prize."

Surely there must be a Pepsi employee willing to pay for and make the trip to the Sanders Theater in Harvard University next October and receive the award from the hands of an actual Nobel Prize recipient amid much applause and several airborne paper planes. Let me know who you are, please, so I can pass on the word. Better yet, tell Marc himself.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

PROCESS LEADING TO HEART ATTACK, STROKE

RP included in major global survey

By Charles E. Buban

THE PHILIPPINES is included in one of the largest international registries to be conducted in people at risk of atherothrombosis, a life-threatening disease process that can lead to heart attack and stroke.

This was announced by Sanofi-Synthelabo and Bristol-Myers Squibb during the REduction of Atherothrombosis for Continued Health (Reach) registry presentation held early this month in Orlando, Florida.

The registry will be a survey that will document the health status and treatment of those at risk of atherothrombotic disease, which is responsible for more than 28 percent of deaths worldwide.

The survey is also expected to enable its proponents to better evaluate risk factors for subsequent effects of atherothrombosis, such as heart attack or stroke.

Enrolling 50,000

The worldwide recruitment will commence next month and it is anticipated that more than 50,000 people at risk of atherothrombosis will be enrolled in the Reach registry.

Participating in the survey are those over 35 countries, which include Latin America (e.g. Brazil, Chile), North America (e.g. Canada, USA), Europe (e.g. Greece, UK, France), Asia (e.g. Philippines, China, Malaysia), Middle East (e.g. Israel, Saudi Arabia) and Oceania (e.g. Australia).

> The survey is expected to heighten public awareness of the life threatening condition

"The people participating in the Reach registry can make a major contribution to a better understanding of one of the major causes of death worldwide," informed Cheryl Serrano of Sanofi Synthelabo Philippines.

People with several risk factors

To be included in the registry, the candidate must have several of the risk factors that can lead to the development of atherothrombosis, including high cholesterol, high blood pressure, smoking, metabolic dysfunction and diabetes, or who have a previous history of an atherothrombosis-related disease, such as chest pain (angina), heart attack or stroke.

Participation in the survey is strictly voluntary.

According to Prof. Gabriel Steg who represents the survey's scientific council, the Reach registry will provide physicians with an important tool for evaluating the long-term risk of atherothrombosis in the broadest spectrum possible.

"The Reach registry is expected to help improve the understanding of atherothrombosis so it is designed in a way to find out how people are affected by this disease and to assess the burden of the disease," he added in a statement.

Heightening public awareness

The Reach registry is expected to heighten public awareness of this life-threatening condition and help improve prevention and treatment.

Atherothrombosis occurs when a blood clot (thrombus) forms on a ruptured plaque (atheroma) in the wall of a blood vessel. A plaque is usually made up of fatty acids and cholesterol, calcium and other materials.

The rupture of plaques, and the subsequent development of a clot, can cause partial or complete blockage of an artery in various parts of the body.

When a blood vessel in the heart is partially or completely blocked by a clot, the result can be a heart attack. In the brain, the same process can cause a stroke.

Elsewhere in the body, this process can lead to reduction or blockage of blood flow in the arteries of the legs, a condition known as peripheral arterial disease (PAD), and a significant risk factor for heart attack or stroke.

Recent data show that at the beginning of the 21st century, cardiovascular disease accounts for nearly one-half of all deaths in the developed world and 25 percent in the developing world.

By 2020, it will claim about 25 million deaths each year and will surpass infectious disease as the world's leading cause of death and disability.

Best Filipino physician for 2003 known tonight

By Charles E. Buban

THE JUDGES haven't decided yet, and this year's recipient of the 13th Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award for the most outstanding Filipino physician can only be revealed just before the presentation ceremony to be held tonight at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City.

The five finalists are Doctors Felixberto Ayahao, Adolfo Bellosillo, Cirila Jorvina, Jose Priela Jr. and Toto Torralba, who were selected from 30 nominees this year.

"The judges are having a hard time selecting and need tonight's final interview to be able to come up with the awardee. This is going to be an exciting finale," said Dr. Gregorio A. Andaman Jr. of the PMA.

This annual award is a partnership program of the PMA and United Laboratories Inc. (Unilab) and initiated by the Southern Tagalog Association of Medical Practitioners (Stamp).

Highest distinction

The Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Award is considered the highest distinction given to a Filipino medical practitioner who best embodies the ideals of the national hero, who is a medical practitioner during his lifetime.

"The awardee's conduct in practice and in life should be reflective of Rizal's love for God and country and selfless service to fellowmen, especially the poor and underprivileged," said Dr. Mona Lisa Cosme of Stamp.

Board of judges

The board of judges is chaired by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, with Commissioner Avelina de la Rea-Tan of the Professional Regulation Commission; Zorayda Leopando, past president of the Philippine Academy of Family Physicians; writer and columnist Barbara Gonzales, granddaughter of Dr. Jose Rizal; Dr. Edgardo Caparas, dean of Central Colleges of the Philippines College of Optometry; Rev. Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP, rector of Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Calamba City; Dr. Martin Cabrera, vice president of the Philippine Medical Association; and INQUIRER columnist Ambeth Ocampo, chair of the National Historical Institute, as members.

The winning physician in tonight's presentation will receive P100,000 worth of medicines from Unilab, which will be donated to a charitable institution of the awardee's choice.

A foreign educational grant in a scientific convention of the awardee's choice and a special trophy are also included in this prize package.

Inspirational

The Stamp started this memorial award in 1987 in the hope of inspiring both physicians and non-physicians to perpetuate the memory and legacy of Rizal. Later on, it sought the support of the PMA and Unilab to make the award nationwide in scope.

Said Unilab VP for corporate communications Manolo Escueta: "Ever since our company's founding in 1945, Unilab has been working hand in hand with doctors and healthcare professionals to meet the healthcare needs of millions of Filipinos. By supporting the award, the company hopes to inspire everyone—physicians and nonphysicians alike—in nurturing unity, working together and sharing the fruits of their achievements."

"Through this prestigious award, our company together with our collaborators, hope to provide the catalyst for individual excellence among the members of the medical community," said Larry Reyes, Unilab Professional Management Division director.

Reyes believes that by setting and even surpassing the standards of experience, competence, behavior and other criteria, the awardee will be able to improve the quality of the country's medical services and will, in the end, redound to the benefit of the Filipino people.

Engine oil minus the toxins?

By Tessa R. Salazar

MOBILITY is a necessity, and motor vehicles are here to stay. But the things that we use to maintain our vehicles can be harmful to people. Experts say that more than 145 million liters of used oil from motor vehicles are dumped into the environment each year, with serious health consequences for all living things. Oil pollutes the soil, air and water.

One liter of waste oil can contaminate a million liters of potable ground water. In the next decade, an estimated 2 billion liters of waste oil will be dumped into the environment. You do the math.

Air pollution stats

Figures supplied by Congress show that as many as 6,000 people in Metro Manila die each year from air pollution. And that 20 percent of all deaths are children under 5 years of age. The World Bank places the Philippines' national losses due to air pollution at P75 billion annually. Air pollution in the Philippines' four largest metropolitan areas cost the country P21.2 billion every year in lost productivity and medical treatments—nearly one percent of the gross domestic product.

Low-technology petroleum products have been identified as one of the main culprits of air pollution in Metro Manila. It has been observed that the petrocentric brand selling of the major oil suppliers in the Philippines does not create an environment for better technology.

Oil, however harmful it can be to the environment, is an essential component of fossil-fuel-based internal combustion engines. Such vehicles need engine oil for lubrication, so that the moving parts inside the engine would not wear each other out. It also cools and cleans the engine, dispersing heat as it circulates and carries dirt and other deposits to the filter.

Protective agent

The main protective agent that most oils provide against wear is a toxic chemical known as zinc dialkyldithiophospate (ZDDP). Ironically, this compound has been identified as a weak anti-wear agent.

Yet the oil industry has struggled for years to develop safe and effective extreme pressure lubricants to replace ZDDP.

Right now, however, motorists have to make do with a combination of potentially harmful chemicals. All engine oils are formulated by blending a base oil (synthetic or mineral) with a standard additive package to improve viscosity (referring to the oil's resistance to flow at different temperatures). The standard additive package includes detergents that prevent sludge formation, and are antioxidant, antiwear and anticorrosion.

The growing trend in engine oil development, it seems, is toward environmental compatibility—meaning oils that would be safe for the planet's inhabitants and maintain the balance of the ecosystem.

Already, there is one kind of engine oil that shows such promise. And it has made its way to the Philippines.

DM-X technology

Using what its developers call DM-X technology, the product claims to have made genuine and safe extreme pressure automotive lubricants, doing away with chlorine, zinc and all the other harmful chemicals.

Known as the XP3 engine oil, its developers claim to reduce toxic emissions by up to 10 percent due to a corresponding decrease in fuel usage. It claims to yield five to 15 percent fuel savings, stressing that it uses light-base oil, thereby reducing internal engine drag.

If used by the motoring public, the XP3 engine oil also promises to reduce the oil waste dumps by 80 percent, or 1.1 billion liters in the next 10 years. Free from toxic chemicals the XP3 engine oil would also be harmless to the environment.

Too good to be true? Are the claims too fantastic to be believed? XP3 executives said in a press conference that it was open to an independent engine oil laboratory test.

The maker's e-mail address is info@xp3world.com. All they want, they say, is for motorists to be as conscientious with the environment as they are with their driving.

Sweet news on diabetes treatment

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

CONVENTIONAL medicine would always recommend starting diabetes treatment with monotherapy, or a single drug regimen, before using drug combinations. But the current trend is to use combination therapy at the start in some cases. This is especially true among patients classified as high-risk—those with hypertension with marked blood pressure elevation and multiple risk factors.

Diabetes by itself is a big risk factor. Even if a diabetic claims to be in the pink of health, he has to watch out lest he finds himself rushed to the intensive care unit for a heart attack or some serious cardiovascular complications.

Clearly, there is a pressing need for aggressive treatment strategies that would provide sustained glycemic or blood sugar control and reduce the burden of illness and death associated with diabetes and its complications.

Recent trends

The role of early aggressive combination therapy in the management of type 2 (noninsulin dependent) diabetes and improving cardiovascular outcomes among diabetic patients was the subject of a lecture by Dr. Stephen Alaistair Smith, a respected researcher on diabetes and metabolism, and Dr. Robin Edwin Buckingham, honorary senior lecturer at King's College and Guy's Hospital I London.

Dr. Rosa Allyn Sy, president of the Philippine Diabetes Association, served as moderator of the symposium.

The two experts emphasized that the landmark United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study demonstrated that after an initial year or two of improved blood sugar control, all current therapies failed as time progressed. Around half of people with type 2 diabetes needed multiple therapies three years following diagnosis to maintain blood sugar control. This figure rose to 75 percent after nine years. This suggests some degree of tolerance or resistance in diabetics as time goes on.

"There is thus a need for a therapy which provides continued and sustained blood sugar control with insulin resistance as a target of therapy," said Dr. Smith. He said this could also prevent complications involving the big blood vessels.

Combination therapy

Numerous clinical studies have shown that the combination therapy of rosiglitazone and metformin is more effective in providing glycemic control, reducing insulin resistance and improving the function of beta cells, which produce insulin. This combination therapy was recently launched in the country under the brand name Avandamet.

Dr. Smith cited a study published in Diabetologia in 1999 which studied the effect of rosiglitazone and metformin. Patients inadequately controlled on metformin alone showed better blood sugar control with addition of rosiglitazone. The researchers were able to show improvement of insulin resistance and beta-cell function.

Dr. Smith gave logical arguments for the immediate use of combination therapy in the management of type 2 diabetes: "I think we need to move away from the conventional paradigm which starts on monotherapy, reach the maximum dose and add another agent when the first one fails. I think we need to move to a more aggressive paradigm where we start thinking of the use of combination treatment during the early course of the disease."

Blood sugar control

The beneficial effect of early combination therapy was seen in the Empire (Escalation of Metformin versus Initiation of Rosiglitazone Early) study. It showed that more patients reached glycosylated hemoglobin (HbA1c) goals with the early addition of rosiglitazone to sub-maximal versus maximal metformin alone.

Diabetes experts recommend the periodic monitoring of HbA1c, a simple blood test, every three to four months in diabetics. This can be a better indicator of how well the blood sugar has been controlled, rather than just isolated fasting blood sugar (FBS) determinations.

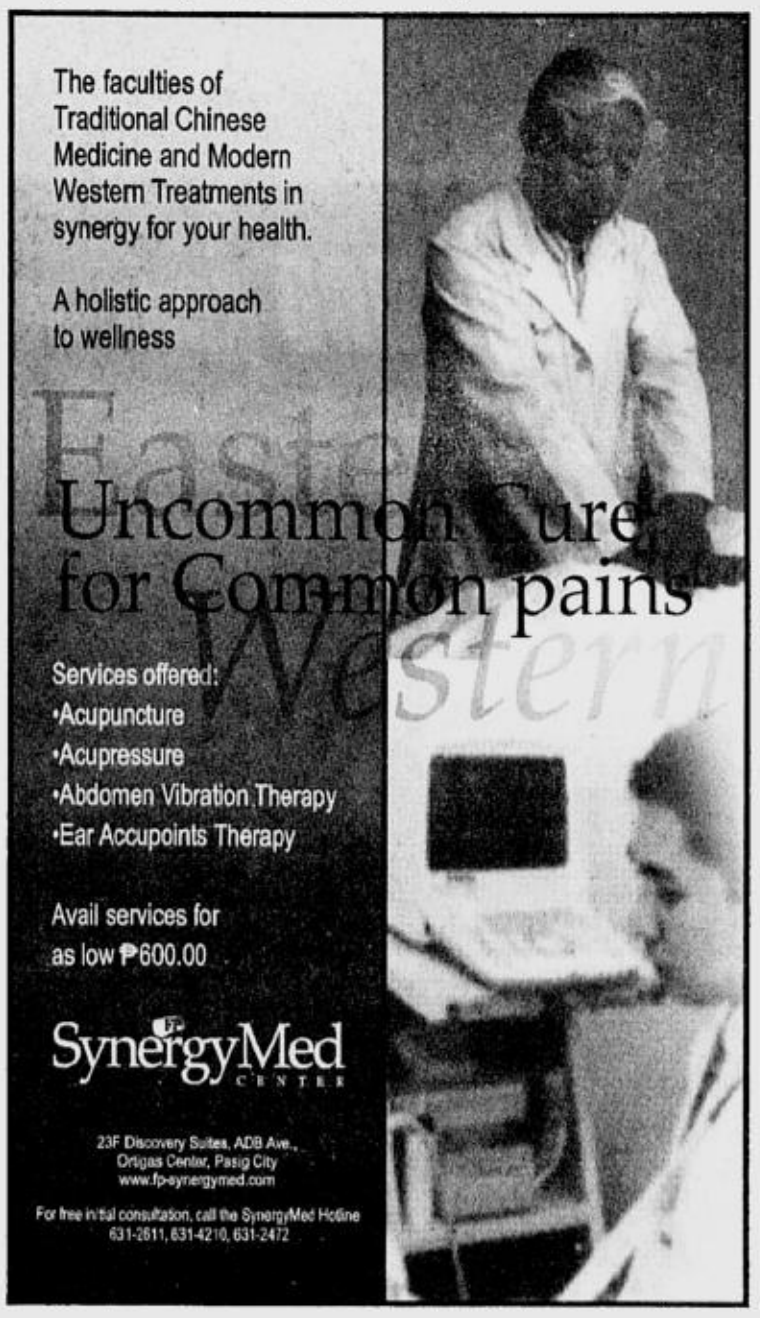
With combination therapy, there was also better blood sugar control after eating (postprandial).

This is particularly important because there is a lot of evidence that postprandial-glycemic uncontrolled excursion is also involved in the excess cardiovascular risk of type 2 diabetes, explained Dr. Smith.

Risk factors

Dr. Buckingham focused on the risk factors of patients with diabetes. He said data suggest that diabetic patients without previous heart attack or myocardial infarction (MI) have as high a risk of MI as nondiabetic patients with previous MI do.

"These data provide a rationale for treating cardiovascular risk factors in diabetic patients as aggressively as in nondiabetic patients with prior myocardial infarction," said Dr. Buckingham.



New domestic data weigh on Tokyo, lift Seoul

SINGAPORE—Weaker-than-expected Japanese industrial output data pressured the yen on Friday and news that the government may rescue another bank weighed on Tokyo shares, while upbeat South Korean output data boosted Seoul stocks.

Japanese industrial production rose 0.8 percent in October from a month earlier, half what the market had expected. Core consumer prices in Japan rose 0.1 percent from a year earlier, the first annual inflation in five and a half years.

"The number was a bit lower than what the market wanted, but it was still positive. The economy is in good shape and should not be weighing too heavily on investors' minds," said Koichi Ogawa, the chief portfolio manager at Daiwa SB Investments.

Investors sold shares in building and real estate firms, as news of a possible bank bailout pressured the broader market.

The Nikkei average finished 0.62 percent lower at 10,100.57.

A Japanese government source said the government may look at bailing out a regional bank, Ashikaga Financial Group.

Another bank, Resona Holdings Inc., was rescued in June.

An MSCI index of Asian share markets excluding Japan was 0.68 percent higher, led by the sharp gains in Hong Kong and South Korea.

On Thursday, the absence of a lead from Wall Street, closed for the Thanksgiving holiday, took steam out of the London market and kept conditions thin on most Asian bourses.

Traders said an Ashikaga bailout could be seen as a symbol of the government's resolve to keep the financial system stable, but that optimism did not linger in the bank sector, which lost early gains to fall 0.9 percent.

Japanese government bond prices rose, more on the Nikkei's fall—the main factor behind recent debt market moves—than the rise in consumer prices.

The benchmark 255th 10-year cash bond was yielding 1.30 percent, down 2.5 basis points from Thursday, while the December futures contract rose 0.39 point to 138.50.

Taiwan stocks rose 0.5 percent as fears ebbed that a parliamentary bill allowing referendums on independence would provoke China's ire. The bill, passed late on Thursday, was seen as having been watered down enough to avert trouble with China.

Seoul shares jumped 1.85 percent on stronger-than-expected output data, which rose a seasonally adjusted 2.4 percent in October from the previous month, helped by booming exports of automobiles.

The market's biggest stock, Samsung Electronics jumped two percent on a rosy earnings outlook.

Australia's S&P/ASX 200 index was little changed. National Australia Bank, lost 1.2 percent but the world's largest diversified miner, BHP Billiton, rose 0.8 percent.

Hong Kong property stocks gained ahead of third-quarter economic growth data, due later on Friday, that was expected to show the territory had emerged from its third recession in six years. The Hang Seng Index was up 1.2 percent.

Singapore shares were led up by property firms City Developments and Allgreen Properties after both posted solid results, helping the key Straits Times index rise 0.6 percent to 1,708.09.

Reuters

Analysts predict HK economic recovery

HONG KONG—Analysts believe Hong Kong has emerged from the recession it slipped into during the SARS epidemic, and ordinary people are starting to voice optimism after months of gloom.

Unemployment has fallen, though it remains stubbornly high at 8 percent, and Hong Kong has now weathered five years of deflation—falling prices due to slow demand.

Economists predict the latest Hong Kong GDP figures—set for release Friday afternoon after the stock market closes—will show the territory has emerged from recession in the July-September quarter, after falling into it during the April-June period.

Hong Kong was in crisis then, with most citizens wearing surgical masks around town, and the World Health Organization warning travelers to stay away. But soon after the travel warning was lifted in May, Hong Kong began rebounding—and it still is.

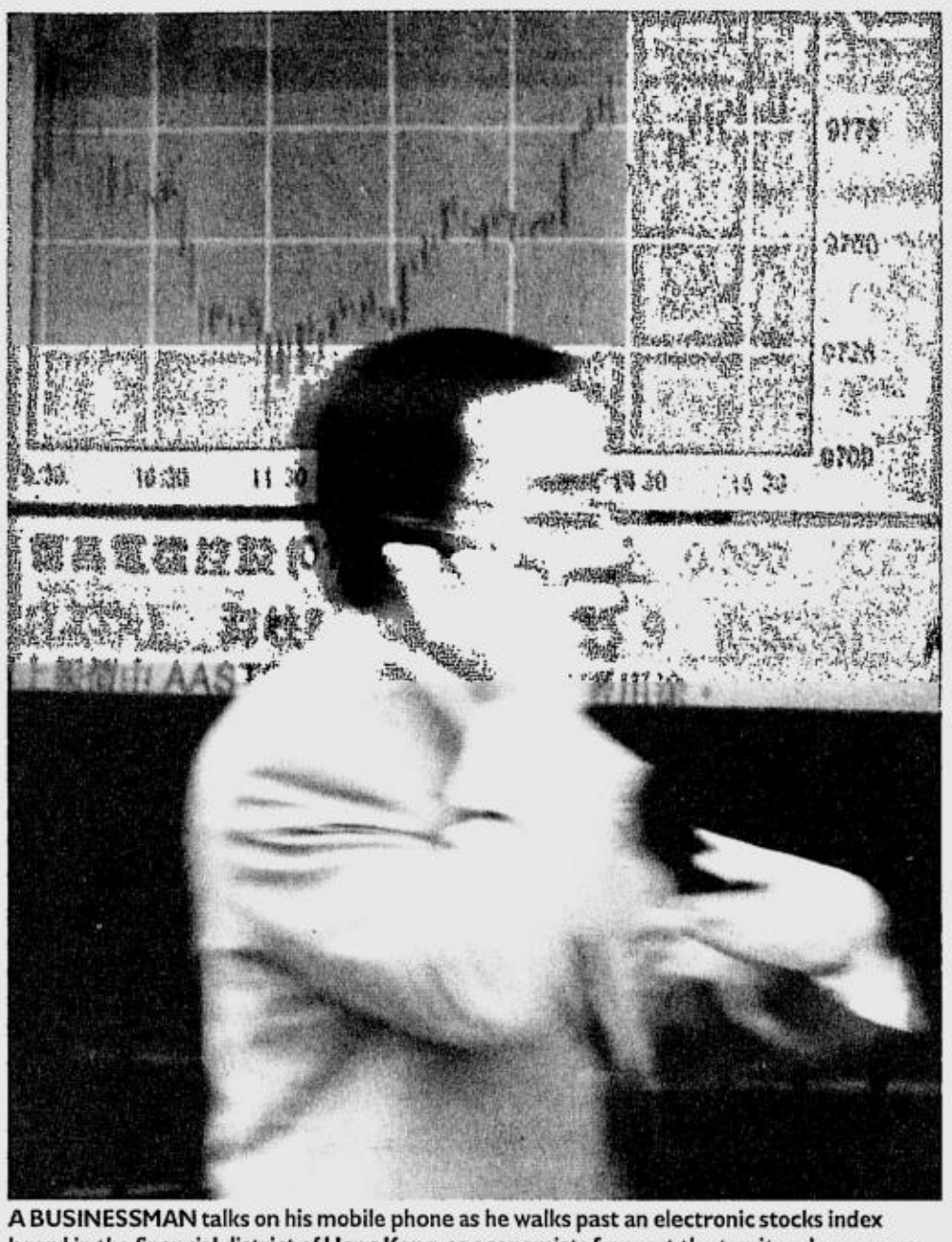
"More people are taking taxis now and they are more willing to spend money than during SARS," said trading firm owner Liu Kin-yan, 50. "I hope the economy will continue to improve next year."

Liu said his main worry is public discontent with Hong Kong's government, led by unpopular Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa.

"The government is doing a lousy job, and it can't instill confidence in the public," Liu said.

But mainland Chinese tourists are returning to Hong Kong, leading to recovery for airlines, hotels and restaurants that took a beating during the SARS outbreak. Growth in exports is also helping.

Private economists surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires predicted a median 2.7 percent surge in growth for the third quarter. They forecast 2.4 percent growth for the full year. *AP*



A BUSINESSMAN talks on his mobile phone as he walks past an electronic stocks index board in the financial district of Hong Kong, as economists forecast the territory's economy would expand. Economists polled said that the economy would expand 2.55 percent in the July-September 2003 period. AFP

S. Korea calls for trade deals

SEOUL, South Korea—President Roh Moo-hyun called for free-trade agreements with neighboring countries Japan, Singapore and others on Friday, saying South Korea should not be a "loner" in the changing trade environment.

In a speech marking the upcoming 40th anniversary of South Korea's Trade Day, Roh also urged swift parliamentary approval of a free-trade agreement with Chile, South Korea's first such pact with another country.

South Korea and Chile signed a free-trade pact in February. But it has yet to win parliamentary approval amid political bickering in the National Assembly and protests by Korean farmers, who fear it would flood the local market with cheap imports and threaten their livelihood.

"Nations of the world are moving within the stark reality where they gather and part depending on economic interests," Roh said. "We cannot be a loner."

"Parliamentary approval of the South Korea-Chile free-trade agreement must be made swiftly," he said.

"Upon this opportunity, we will promote FTAs with Japan, Singapore and other neighboring countries." *AP*

VW prepares for export of Chinese Polo sedans

SHANGHAI, China—In 1984, Volkswagen became the first foreign automaker to invest in China, helping to launch the land of the bicycle into the age of the car.

Now, Volkswagen is helping to pioneer another first—China as the newest Asian exporter of premium-priced passenger cars to the industrialized world.

VW was preparing Friday for its first made-for-export Polo sedan to roll off an assembly line in Shanghai. The car is destined for sale in Australia.

The step is an unusual one for the growing number of foreign automakers that are setting up operations in China. Most are focusing on China's booming domestic market—now the fastest-growing in the world.

Most have joint ventures on the mainland, but only a few say they plan to export.

Volkswagen has said it plans to export made-in-China cars to 84 countries within three to five years—if it can bring down costs and improve quality.

"They've been building capacity and probably want to keep their options open," said Christopher Richter, an auto industry analyst with HSBC Securities in Tokyo. "After all, what if the Chinese economy slows down?"

China has made and exported low-priced trucks, buses and other vehicles for decades—mostly to other Third World countries. It is also one of the world's biggest auto parts makers.

But so far, the economics of car making in the top ranks of the industry have worked against exports. Car makers import most of their components, and strong demand has kept prices high.

"Everything I've heard suggests that the cost structure in China doesn't make a lot of sense for exporting," said John Bonnell, director of Automotive Resources Asia, an industry consulting firm based in Bangkok.

Quality is another issue. *AP*

HSBC to cut 1/3 of equities jobs

LONDON—Global bank HSBC Holdings Plc said on Thursday it would cut about a third of its equities staff worldwide as it unveiled its strategy for investment banking.

HSBC has 1,450 equities staff and that number will shrink to less than 1,000 by February, co-head of investment banking Stuart Gulliver told analysts at a presentation. The bank is shedding people as it shifts equities away from acting for clients towards trading on its own balance sheet, he said.

"This review of the equities business is current and will continue through to January or February," Gulliver said. "There will be more reorganisation and restructuring taking place in research and sales."

The bank has cut between 100 and 200 equities staff since September in Europe and the United States, Gulliver said. Some of the remaining staff will be new hires, he added.

HSBC makes about a third of its profit from investment and corporate banking but in recent years has had a low profile, causing some analysts to question Chairman Sir John Bond's commitment to the business. Most equities and corporate finance staff got no bonus for 2001, causing unrest and departures.

"Possibly in terms of return on capital this will be the highest growth (business)," Bond said.

Gulliver and his co-head, former Morgan Stanley veteran John Studzinski, took over in April and are overhauling the investment banking business to boost returns.

The bank will start a corporate finance advisory business in New York and aims to be one of the top 10 banks for mergers and acquisitions in North America in three to five years, Studzinski said. *Rseuters*

LG Card seen target of GE bid

SEOUL—A crisis at South Korea's biggest credit card company took new twists on Friday as talk swirled of a takeover bid for LG Card Co. by GE Capital and a dispute over loans threatened a $1.7 billion rescue package.

Shares in LG Card jumped almost eight percent on speculation it was in talks for a takeover by General Electric Co.'s finance arm.

A spokesperson for LG Card said he could not confirm the rumor, while the US company was not immediately available for comment. LG has previously said it was not in talks with GE.

The talk came after cash-strapped LG Card secured emergency loans and slashed its workforce as its industry struggles to cope with the aftermath of a credit boom that has left South Koreans unable to repay loans.

Creditor banks threatened to reconsider their $1.7 billion of emergency loans on Friday unless institutions agreed to roll over LG's loans.

LG Card repaid 302.5 billion won in matured notes owed to Kyobo Life Insurance late on Thursday, despite opposition from the creditor banks, who wanted Kyobo Life to freeze the repayment to support their aid package.

"We're even considering reducing loans from the two trillion won by the amount LG Card repaid to Kyobo," said Kim Kil-in, a spokesperson for Woori Bank. *Reuters*

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More evidence of Japan recovery in price data

TOKYO—Japanese consumer prices rose for the first time in 5 and a half years in October and industrial production gained for a second month, underscoring optimism that a recovery in Japan's deflation-plagued economy is taking root.

The government said on Friday that the core nationwide consumer price index, excluding volatile fresh food costs, rose 0.1 percent in October from the same month a year earlier—the first rise since April 1998.

Economists and government officials said the rise was due to special factors, such as the cold weather over the summer that pushed up rice prices, an increase in patients' share of medical costs and a tobacco tax hike.

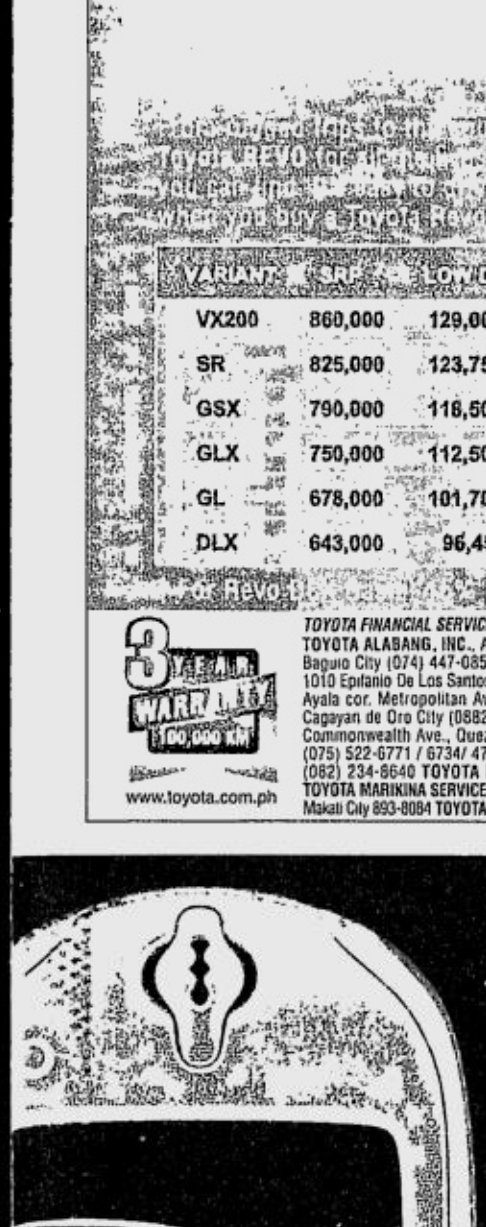
But they agreed that the blip was a reminder that the rate of decline in prices had slowed significantly over the past year and that most economic indicators suggested Japan's export-driven economic recovery was continuing.

"The fact that we have a positive figure for the first time (in a while) provides the first evidence that Japan's deflation has been visibly improving," said Yukari Sato, senior economist at JP Morgan.

Japan's 49-month run of falling prices has subdued domestic demand and discouraged capital investment, although recent data showed companies were resuming business investment to meet demand for exports of hot products such as digital cameras.

The Bank of Japan has vowed to keep its ultra-loose monetary policy in place until the core CPI starts to rise steadily and BOJ Assistant Governor Eiji Hirano reiterated on Friday that the bank would not tighten policy any time soon.

Prices must first rise for several months and many BOJ board members must expect sustained inflation. *Reuters*



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ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
15 Annapolis Greenhills
Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

STD Clinic RAPID Treat
U MAY NOT FEEL N HAV IT
Call 8175071 2178 PTamo

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

4 Lot Ownr No Down/
Equity 7T/mo. Free Layout
3mos Cnstrction 8739444

CONSULTING SERVICES

THESIS DISSERTATION STRAMA
0927-2667321 • 448-7430

FINANCIAL

LANDBANK BONDS
WE BUY AR 10-YEAR BOND
640-5771, 0917-7922363 Ver

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Our Guy

ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

Akhin Thai Masg BAGUIO&MLA
(02)8347357 CBU (032)2532597

ANNE 09182665646 - 8818313 LIC.

Ask Rally MALE MASSEUR 4726005

D' PHYSIQUE MALE MASSEUR 5274294

*Mr BODY PHYSIQUE MASSAGE
11A Kamias QC 4350978

•ASIAN GUYS 09204540607

•ROBIN H'SVC 09175257654

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE
8518650 ; 0920-6274243

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

NICE GUYS 258-13-78

Power4 Lic. 0920-5944521

THAI Msge Lic 0921-2020428

VIP-M/F 09193591771 / 472-7647 Romy

Zhoren-09185969154

REFLEXOLOGY

FEELS GOOD 4127758

•MR UNIVERSE 09274484332

MALE SPA 7314018

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

•ADEPT TUTORS 751-1584

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

Direct Maid Yaya Int'l Cook 7572089

Best maids 4146800/7111602

BEST MAIDS 772-4213

Good-Maid-Yaya-Cook 853-3504

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

MAID BOY YAYA 7830738

MAIDS W/NBI-REF. 9950535

OLD/ BABY SITTER 7852032

PROVINCIAL ALL AROUND MAIDS
Call Josie 8737057•8737055

Prov'l Trusted Maids Yaya
CALL:9124701 • 9124706

ANGEL'S HANDS
w/ NBI&BI 4213253 / 4213874

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 LIPAT BAHAY 4313975

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

LBAHAY 7113540

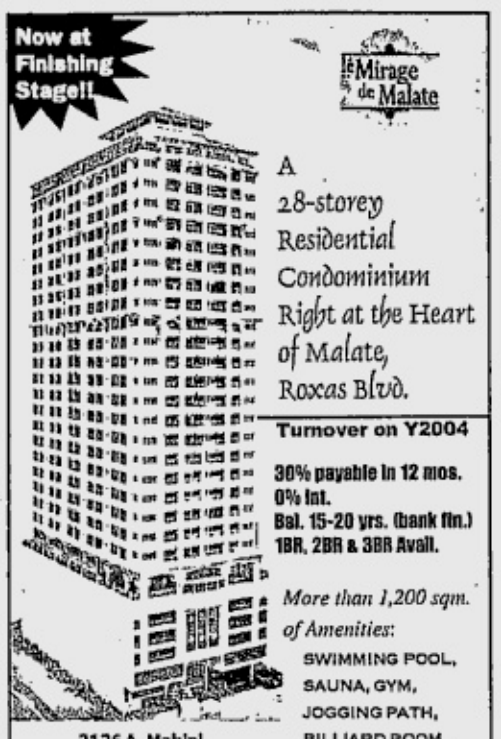
L-BAHAY 712-16-92

•P600Trp 4153808/7001529

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA



MANILA

HOUSE & LOT

LAS PINAS

LAS PINAS

PASIG

LEXINGTON
THE CITY'S GARDEN VILLAGE
Located in PASIG NEAR ORTIGAS, MAKATI & FORT BONIFACIO
UNITS READY FOR OCCUPANCY
Townhouse or Single Detached
Please call: 6318651-55

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

Kamias Rd 4 Display GF Res 8.2M Call 645-3731

COMM'L/RESDL

LAGUNA

4Stry Bldg Binan - Comml Good 4 Bus 7781541 Victoria

VARIED AREAS

AYALA
RESIDENCES AT GREENBELT
2&3 BR Condo 118-190m²
FERNDALE QC Hse&Lot/Lots FA 149-200m²,LA 200-350m²
AYALA HILLSIDE ESTATES
New Phase!Lots@450-800m²
TIFFANY 939-6343
759-4754/55•0917-8142833

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA240m² FA323/m² 2Bdrms 1T&B P1.2M Vic/Gle8903461loc27

PARANAQUE

3-5BR Near Mkti & Airport 822-9993 • 0922-8088800

PARANAQUE

SAN DINISIO 2 Stry P1.9M LA200/m² FA 323/m² 9Bdrms 7 T&B Vic 8903461 loc 27

PASIG

DE CASTRO SUBD 2Stry P1.8M LA321/m² FA271/m² 6Bdrms 2T&B Vic 8903461loc27

QUEZON CITY

Capitol Hills Golf Subd. Q.C. 9312022 / 09178161862

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM Fairview 30sqm thru Pag-ibig 8179650 / 9750 / 0919-8994322

Proj 8 2Stry 5BR/4TB w/ s-pool furnish 1028sqm T778-1541 • 0916-2581034

PROJ.6 BNEW 9263307

Scout Area LA 605.5m² 4BR/TB •Call Lopez 928-0512•

Teachers Village 5BR 4TB 2Car Grge 9132701/9132403

RIZAL

3br 2tb nr antipolo church 346sqm call 6341212

BATANGAS

AYALA PROPERTY AT STO TOMAS BATANGAS 364 SQM. HOUSE N LOT 2.5M NEG 500T DP BAL 2 YRS TO PAY W/O INT 0918-9424538

LAGUNA

Binan 3T/mo 25yrs 9390299

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA132/m² 3bdrms 2T&B FA84/m² P1.85M Vic 8903461 loc27/25

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA 210/m² LA 78/m² P1.9M Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

69m² Newly Rnvid, 2BR 2NewTB, Utty Rm. w/ 2AC, new wash mach, new range,ref,tel etc. 2.5M w/ parking. South Star Plaza 8942222

LAS PINAS

RUSH SALE BFRV 8753350

MAKATI

PASEO PARKVIEW-near Ayala & Paseo Ave., Studio 37m² Call NATT 0917-5403034

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2tb/grge P3.435M 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

930T nr UST 0920-8309744

ESPANA TOWER nr UST 0917-8102903

1-2-3BR nr La Salle TAFT 894-4516 / 0917-9853661

NR LA SALLE
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.295M 8903461 loc 34

Nr UST 3.6M 4br 3tb 1cg Nr bank, Loan Ok Call 645-3731

MANDALUYONG

RUSHI CONDO 2br 3tb 1pkg ALONG EDSA 0918-5179690

PARANAQUE

Nr NAIA BNEW TWNHOUSE 3BR 2TB 87m² P2.6M(neg) 8268993/8251751/8512106

PASIG

•3BR Renaissance 2000• 7M Rush DBO • 928-44-31

Nr. V.Verde/Reedley RFO 5yrs. Zero Int. • T672-1463

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO 1.4M 10%DP 9132224

*CUBAO CONDO
No D/P Pagibig 09178102903

LOYOLA GRAND MANSION 6.5M Neg 202FA 4BR w/attic 4TB S'pool Gazebo Tennis Basketball Court T-435-1779 361-0855 • 924-1647 Cel.0917-8410620 (text msg)

Rushi Fernandina 88 100sqm 4.5M Neg 3br 2tb 0916-7069277

SAN JUAN

57m² 1BR WACK2 Royal Mansion 2.6M / parking 500T 8402376

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

Per Unit 2 Storey Apartment Newly Renovate all concrete 2BR w/ toilet, carport P1.3M-P1.4M Tandang Sora QC T9306106

LOT

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE5 LA216m² P3475/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

LAS PINAS

TALON 204m²@P4,000 639-1694 / 0917-8102903

MAKATI

Nr. Ayala 298m² T-890-6681

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

Timog Ave LA1382m² P32,000/m² neg. •Call Lopez 928-0512•

VILLA ESPA—A LA108.50m² P12,000/m² Vic8903461loc27

RIZAL

EMERALD HILLS 465m² 379m² 393m² 09209203275

Village East LA240m P1.0M Neg Lopez 9280512 Gensen St.

OTHER AREAS

TOWN & CNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461loc 27

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m² P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL BTGS 200mtrs from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P185.50/m² Vic8903461loc27

LOT

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL LA 4000m² P160/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY LA 180m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m² P2,900/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL EXEC VILLAGE LA371m² P2,650/m² Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc 72 or 25

LAGUNA

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m² LA240m² Vic8903461loc25/27

MEMORIAL LOT

37.5 sqm Mla. North Cem 2513527

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

Rush Piggery w/ECC 9522109

ZAMBALES, Fishpond 8ha.+ P10M Devlpd 0920-9112910

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL LA 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

TAAL BTGS 200mtrs from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P185.50/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

RIZAL

24has. adj spring/Pililla River, Ideal for farm lot/ subd./orchard/poultry/ piggery P160/m² nego 911-5631 • 911-0735

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

MANDALUYONG

Ghills 5BrPool 120T 7247349

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

MONTHLY/YEARLY/MAKATI Cland8/S'dio/1BR/P10-12T Furn Leg.Vill./1BR/Unf./6364352

Nr. Rockwell/Ayala Ctr. 2Sty 2BR 2TB • T-8906581

MANILA

APT/CONDO W/GARAGE PACO MANILA TEL 563-6296

Nr UP-Mla/Robinson
FURN. STUDIO w/CABLE T-400-5916 - 19 OFFICE HRS.

APARTMENT

MANILA

2BR Apart@7,500/mo. Vangie 0920-5112950 Ofc 7145342/46 Res 4356293

Nr LA SALLE 9T 09195162077

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8 LADY 9124428

STUDIO w/garage, telphone Call 911-5112/911-5162

w/bus space 7.5T 3730584

SAN JUAN

Studio Semifurn 7267310 T39

FOR LEASE

Comi-Alab 8621443/0919-7036464

ROOM & BOARD

8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Dr. Ortigas as low as P6T 633-5094 • 637-8101

P'QUE P150 / 12hrs 827-5345

W/AIRCON, TB MKT 8992148

BEDSPACE

Resdn'l/Furnish 2PerRm Male Single Bed T897-3770

BUSINESS RENTAL

AYALA AVE T8181696/7586

BUSINESS RENTAL

G/F Sunshine Condo #9633 Kamagong St San Antonio Vill Makati 920-7793 / 0919-4470662

PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st Class bldg 85/129/148/185m² 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSN DRS OFW 524-3197

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Gigie /Ernie 8903461 loc25/23

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

IBM PLAZA EASTWOOD LIBIS QC 0917-8133010

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

1ST CLASS OFC LOC.
Prime Quezon City Complete Amenities
Ready for Occupancy!
32-47m² 437-1549 421-3105
0919-7894012/0917-6688274

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

Looking for Farm in Tanay Rizal, 4has. 0920-9112910

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

ISUZU

Fuego LS2000 Silver Gray All Power Casa Maintain Armakoated 480K Neg 413-4995 or 0917-8914348

MERCEDES

'78 M8 Stretch Limo white Automatic 250D 350T 8 2 5 9 5 6 4

MITSUBISHI

'00 L300 ALUM VAN 4539054

TOYOTA

'93 Toyota Coaster 28 seater 5 0 0 T 8 2 5 9 5 6 4

95CrlaXE FreshUSver 220T 7767507

TOYOTA SURF 0917-9361201

TOYOTA

RAV 4 96 CDU Red 3dr A/T Loaded 111 Plate 430T Neg 0919-3434034 • 433-0315 Yen

VOLKSWAGON

96VW Polo A1 175T 6819727

VAN/PICK-UP

89 SUNNY P/UP D/B Cab C'Shell P60T 913-9152

'98 Pregio Van 250T 6259564

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Land Cruiser Pajero Surf Delica Hi-Town Ace Spacegear Serena Trooper Elf Canter etc A1 w/warranty finance T-In ok 9120647 Beryl

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

CHIPEST IN TOWN
Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Hi-Ace • 637-7396

1T/Hiace 9136710/4333662

A B C CARS/VANS
NEW MODELS W/ OR W/O DRIVER
MLA HO 536-8822 • 303-9789
Q.C. BR. 426-2278 • 426-4084

A*TOYCO UDRIVE W/ DRIVER CARS/VANS/REVO 8006595

Bnew Vans 8254058 8261045

★Vans Coaster Bus 422-9296

CARS/ VANS/ BUS/ 8969956

L300 VAN 4711695 09163443087

L300 ADV. 741-1356

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX 12 seater 7318549

Van 0917-8143792 • 6421840

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

1.5% CARLOAN 952-2510

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/o Taking Car 6567685

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 826-7840

2% w/o Taking Car 7252780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLAN 8061574

EDUCATION PLANS 7137284

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale Nov. 29 & 30 (Sat. & Sun.) 9:30AM #3 Ponce St., San Lorenzo Village Makati

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

Beagle Pup F 0918-9403819

Dog Trainer 09192050952

Golden Ret 18T 7210640

WANTED TO BUY

BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
Repair / Polish Any watch
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
Hyatt • 804-0484 / 834-2886
Greenhills • 724-4374

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

MISCELLANEOUS

Rush 4 sale PHOTODEV SHOP Cong Ave Q.C. (0917)8427128

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

2 Machinist/ 2 Tool and Die Maker #86 Spain St., Better Living Subd., Paranaque 823.2358/8234825

NURSE FOR PRIVATE DUTY PREFERABLY FEMALE LICENSED W/REFERENCE CALL 7118080 801-0831 RODELYN

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

OFC MKTNG STF 09208062187

OFC/MKTG STF 0920-3562010

ST BERNARD 3M 09176229034

Wld Masseuse 09197247287 MF

XRAYTECH/2916985/2772167

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE: THE PUBLIC MAY KNOW THAT GAY NELL SUEN PIOQUINTO AND MOISAM NELL SUEN PIOQUINTO PERTAIN TO ONE AND THE SAME PERSON

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ BRIONES PAWNSHOP
AUCTION SALE
• DECEMBER 8, 2003
All unredeemed articles from July 1-31, 2003
•354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM.
•Pinatubo St. Mand City 10AM
•Libertad St corner Sierra Madre Mand. 11AM.
•109 Dela Rosa St Mkti 1PM.
V. ZAMORA Lic. Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late DOMINADOR ARCETA has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc. No. 264 Page No. 53 Book No. II Series of 2001 of Notary Public Benjamin Moppo, Jr. of Quezon City.
PDI-Nov. 15, 22 & 29, 2003

NOTICE OF LOSS

Alabang Country Club Certificate No. A-837 Issued to Antonio R. Santamaria

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

•OWN UR LIFE• travelandwork fromhome.com 8531608 09178901851

NEW 4 STOREY DORMITORY BLDG UNIVERSITY BELT AREA SAMPALOC MANILA 936-1426 / 937-2622

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Consign 09167940002

Work By Phone, Earn Up 2 P30T/month!
Female, 23&up! 892-7828

XMASLITES 3SETS/P100
Trees Ropelites Etc. 532-3909

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Sacri-Sale BAR n GRILL-KTV Ed -9329277 / 09274421961

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Tel: 911-6433/911-6001 Loc 6592; Tel/Fax: 912-5491
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **ACQUISITION OF A MINIMUM OF TWELVE (12) SURFACE ATTACK AIRCRAFT (SAA) AND ITS INTEGRATED LOGISTICS SUPPORT (ILS)** of the Philippine Air Force with an approved budget of **One Billion One Hundred Thirty Two Million Eight Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 1,132,800,000.00)** under the AFP Modernization Program.

Only bids from prime contractors; who may be the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM), authorized dealers by the OEM, Licensed Manufacturers by the OEM, or Third party contractors authorized by the user to sell; of the Surface Attack Aircraft shall be entertained.

Eligibility/Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **29 November 2003** during office hours between 8:00 o'clock a.m. to 5:00 o'clock p.m. (local time) until **11 December 2003** at 5:00 o'clock p.m. at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of ***Sixty Thousand Pesos (Php 60,000.00)*** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective Bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **11 December 2003** at 9:00 o'clock a.m. (local time) at Silid Panday Pira, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat seven (7) days before the Pre-Bid Conference.

The deadline for submission of applications for eligibility requirements and bid envelopes is scheduled on **29 January 2004** at 9:00 o'clock a.m. (local time) and followed by the Opening of Bids at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on the same day at Silid Panday Pira.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ARISTON V DELOS REYES**
RADM AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI - Nov. 29 & Dec. 6, 2003)

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

11th Floor Pacific Center Bldg. San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Bidding Committee shall conduct a public bidding for the sale of the following acquired residential properties on December 22, 2003, MONDAY, 2:00 PM at 8th Flr Pacific Center Bldg. San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City:

PROP NO.	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO.	AREA LOT/FLOOR	MINIMUM BID
1	BLK 05 LOT 59 CAMELLA HOMES BARCELONA 3 BO TANZANG LUMA IMUS CAVITE	T-1012157	77 00/40 00	537,480 84
2	BLK 42 LOT 20 CARISSA HOMES EAST 1 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110865	32 00/18 00	154,588 70
3	BLK 79 LOT 15 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110961	32 00/18 00	158,704 38
4	BLK 04 LOT 08 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110956	42 00/20 62	176,041 30
5	BLK 12 LOT 17 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110150	63 00/20 62	240,022 18
6	BLK 56 LOT 20 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110690	45 00/18 00	187,098 70
7	BLK 01 LOT 04 CARISSA HOMES NORTH 5C BO STO. CRISTO, SJDM, BULACAN	T-35267 P(M)	55 00/20 62	238,646 23
8	BLK 23 LOT 40 CARISSA HOMES NORTH 6 BRGY STO CRISTO SJDM, BULACAN	T-305805(M)	45 00/20 62	199,764 56
9	BLK 18 LOT 20 CARISSA HOMES TANZA PH4 BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-883057	61 00/20 62	246,036 13
10	BLK 05 LOT 09 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-887183	35 00/20 62	175,317 10
11	BLK 20 LOT 19 PH3B CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA, CAVITE	T-884354	35 00/20 62	176,353 80
12	BLK 15 LOT 24 PH6 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA, CAVITE	T-884352	33 00/18 00	199,417 17
13	BLK 03 LOT 10 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-884349	35 00/20 62	176,353 60
14	BLK 40 LOT 57 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-884350	33 00/18 00	186,163 77
15	BLK 73 LOT 48 PH8 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA, CAVITE	T-913000	33 00/18 00	181,190 81
16	BLK 147 LOT 28 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-911033	33 00/18 00	184,308 65
17	BLK 141 LOT 48 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-913092	33 00/18 00	200,425 00
18	BLK 104 LOT 40 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-913088	33 00/18 00	187,218 86
19	BLK 06 LOT 22 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-844537	69 00/20 62	288,342 58
20	BLK 17 LOT 22 PH4 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-894694	61 00/20 62	246,036 13
21	BLK 135 LOT 39 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-953823	33 00/18 00	197,804 64
22	BLK 44 LOT 08 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-881411	42 00/20 62	188,338 39
23	BLK 11 LOT 34 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-881258	35 00/20 62	172,497 82
24	BLK 08 LOT 20 PH2 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-880395	35 00/20 62	173,954 47
25	BLK 26 LOT 26 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980401	54 00/20 62	231,142 58
26	BLK 34 LOT 10 PH3B CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980398	54 00/20 62	229,308 19
27	BLK 29 LOT 02 PH3B CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980389	79 00/20 62	208,018 68
28	BLK 08 LOT 20 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980404	53 50/20 62	242,081 28
29	BLK 16 LOT 02 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980403	55 50/20 62	237,990 44
30	BLK 08 LOT 17 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980412	35 00/20 62	173,254 47
31	BLK 15 LOT 20 PH5 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980400	61 00/20 62	246,036 13
32	BLK 08 LOT 28 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980393	35 00/20 62	173,254 47
33	BLK 46 LOT 04 PH1A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980794	35 00/20 62	169,837 15
34	BLK 34 LOT 19 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980402	58 50/20 62	248,288 84
35	BLK 02 LOT 08 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980397	35 00/20 62	190,450 00
36	BLK 34 LOT 27 PH4 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980411	35 00/20 62	171,797 82
37	BLK 26 LOT 22 PH 5 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1001925	35 00/20 62	175,653 60
38	BLK 31 LOT 46 PH 4 CARISSA HOMES BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036911	35 00/20 62	189,750 00
39	BLK 103 LOT 04 PH 7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036914	33 00/18 00	184,656 48
40	BLK 72 LOT 06 CARISSA HOMES PH 2 BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036909	35 00/20 62	175,609 80
41	BLK 40 LOT 28 CARISSA HOMES TANZA P6 BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1035481	33 00/18 00	180,436 97
42	BLK 40 LOT 11 CARISSA HOMES TANZA P6 BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1035482	33 00/18 00	191,938 71
43	BLK 42 LOT 10 CH TANZA P3B BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1038580	35 00/20 62	175,254 91
44	BLK 08 LOT 10 CH-BERMUDA 2B BO BANLIC CABUYAO LAGUNA	T-520083	50 00/25 00	255,020 35
45	BLK 32 LOT 10 LA POBLACION PH IC BO. PARTIDA MUZON SJDM, BULACAN	T-347627(M)	42 00/22 00	223,268 78
46	BLK 10 LOT 04 LA POBLACION 3B BO PARTIDA, MUZON, SJDM, BULACAN	T-363763(M)	64 00/29 00	290,835 78
47	BLK 08 LOT 01 LA POBLACION IC PARTIDA MUZON SAN JOSE DEL MONTE BULACAN	T-285533(M)	38 00/22 00	226,955 93
48	BLK 72 LOT 17 CH LA TRINIDAD 3 BO QUINTANA TRECE MARTIRES CITY	T-62954	70 00/25 00	368,953 89
49	BLK 10 LOT 30 LANDMASS PARK SUBDIVISION BO BIGA TANZA CAVITE	T-1048018	40 00/21 60	257,558 32
50	BLK 06 LOT 37 NORTHRIDGE BO. STO CRISTO, SJDM, BULACAN	T-363764(M)	44 00/36 00	269,757 58
51	BLK 07 LOT 18 NORTHWINDS CITY 3B BRGY STO CRISTO SJDM BULACAN	T-272865(M)	79 00/25 00	389,499 60
52	BLK 22 LOT 09 NORTHWIND CITY 3D BO STO CRISTO SJDM BULACAN	T-413035(M)	67 00/25 00	395,899 60
53	BLK 23 LOT 33 SAN MARINO CENTRAL BO SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1001923	50 00/28 00	258,126 73
54	BLK 24 LOT 20 SAN MARINO CENTRAL BO SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048013	50 00/28 00	276,856 00
55	BLK 13 LOT 17 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1036913	35 00/20 62	202,590 86
56	BLK 19 LOT 20 PH 2 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1012158	35 00/20 62	209,064 41
57	BLK 14 LOT 36 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1012161	35 00/20 62	203,227 95
58	BLK 11 LOT 35 PH I SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1012159	35 00/20 62	219,883 04
59	BLK 06 LOT 38 PH I SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048017	35 00/20 62	204,562 15
60	BLK 01 LOT 07 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048012	35 00/20 62	195,222 77
61	BLK 04 LOT 08 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048014	35 00/20 62	204,562 15
62	BLK 09 LOT 30 SOLAR URBAN HOMES NORTH DEPARO RD, BO BAGUMBONG CAL	C-344443	47.00/36 00	306,964 00
63	BLK 06 LOT 04 PH 2 STA CECILIA VILLAGE 2 BRGY JULUGAN TANZA CAVITE	T-1036912	82 00/00	248,050 00
64	BLK 04 LOT 02A SUNRISE VILLAGE I BRGY MARINIG CABUYAO LAGUNA	T-519127	84 00/00	162,808 00
65	BLK 30 LOT 22 TIERRA NEVADA 1 BO SAN FRANCISCO GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-987050	55 00/26 19	328,146 45
66	BLK 19 LOT 05 WILLOW BEND BRGY PINAGKUARTELAN PANDI BULACAN	T-383767(M)	37 00/18 00	192,870 72
67	BLK 15 LOT 31 WILLOW BEND BRGY PINAGKUARTELAN PANDI BULACAN	T-359635(M)	37 00/18 00	194,306 40
68	BLK 32 LOT 24 WOODBRIDGE BRGY POBLACION PANDI BULACAN	T-353668(M)	42 00/20 00	190,882 56
69	BLK 64 LOT 07 WOODBRIDGE BRGY POBLACION PANDI BULACAN	T-353669(M)	42 00/20 00	189,245 15
70	BLK 01 LOT 17/18 SEC 33 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-605194/95	107 00/20 16	309,509 60
71	BLK 02 LOT 15 SEC 34 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS I BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	605342	39 60/20 16	159,881 14
72	BLK 02 LOT 56/57 SEC 32 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS PH I BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVIT	T-604489/604490	79 20/20 16	249,627 22
73	BLK 04 LOT 15/17 SEC 35 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS I BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-615353-615355	83 60/20 16	250,075 64
74	BLK 01 LOT 03 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672348-A	38 50/20 12	265,601 57
75	BLK 01 LOT 100/101 SEC 10 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES PH I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA	T-674039/39	77 00/20 12	320,057 58
76	BLK 01 LOT 11 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672914-A	38 50/20 12	204,183 46
77	BLK 01 LOT 115 & 116 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-674054/53	84 00/20 12	342,125 99
78	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665898	38 50/20 12	211,601 57
79	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 08 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES III BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVI	T-732656	36 00/20 12	184,356 45
80	BLK 01 LOT 13/15 SEC 02 BELVEDERE TOWNE II SUBD BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVI	T-666567/69	77 00/20 12	329,710 82
81	BLK 01 LOT 14 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672917A	38 50/20 12	194,670 41
82	BLK 01 LOT 15 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672918	38 50/20 12	212,621 97
83	BLK 01 LOT 26 & 28 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672929/31	77 00/20 12	339,315 20
84	BLK 01 LOT 30 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667024	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
85	BLK 01 LOT 36 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666790	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
86	BLK 01 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667033/031	77 00/20 12	333,433 38
87	BLK 01 LOT 46 & 47 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673984A/985A	77 00/20 12	321,265 99
88	BLK 01 LOT 86/87 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I SUBD. BRGY QUINTANA, TANZA CAVITE	T-674024/674025	77 00/20 12	319,046 92
89	BLK 01 LOT 92 & 93 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-674030-A/031A	77 00/20 12	321,265 99
90	BLK 02 LOT 01 & 02 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672945A/944A	80 50/20 12	331,695 99
91	BLK 02 LOT 02 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673642	38 50/20 12	221,025 09
92	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 02 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666602	38 50/20 12	205,554 23
93	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667042	38 50/20 12	203,198 31
94	BLK 02 LOT 09 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673649A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
95	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665939	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
96	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673484	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
97	BLK 02 LOT 17 SEC 01 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667362	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
98	BLK 02 LOT 21 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672964A	38 50/20 12	211,309 98
99	BLK 02 LOT 25 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665941	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
100	BLK 02 LOT 27 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665943	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
101	BLK 03 LOT 03 BELVEDERE IIA BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-822584	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
102	BLK 03 LOT 20 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673003-A	38 50/20 12	206 678 28
103	BLK 03 LOT 31/33 SEC 05 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES PH I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA C	671136/671134	77 00/20 12	336,118 41
104	BLK 03 LOT 35 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667109	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
105	BLK 03 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666872/874	77 00/20 12	332,809 37
106	BLK 04 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673682 84	75 00/20 12	333,355 20
107	BLK 04 LOT 08 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673685A	38 50/20 12	212,472 08
108	BLK 04 LOT 11 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673034-A	38 50/20 12	203 537 47
109	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667130	38 50/20 12	208,181 62
110	BLK 04 LOT 18 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671163	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
111	BLK 04 LOT 35 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666909	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
112	BLK 04 LOT 49 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732959	36 00/20 12	192,427 11
113	BLK 05 LOT 01 & 02 SEC 04 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670786/787	80 50/20 12	339,529 67
114	BLK 05 LOT 06 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667160	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
115	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667162	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
116	BLK 05 LOT 10 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666924	39 50/20 12	209,949 14
117	BLK 05 LOT 11 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673536A	39 50/20 12	202,702 02
118	BLK 05 LOT 23 & 25 SEC 02 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667502 504	77 00/20 12	323,604 27
119	BLK 05 LOT 26 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673091A	38 50/20 12	269,122 80
120	BLK 05 LOT 26 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732989	36 00/20 12	192,078 09
121	BLK 05 LOT 30 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672533A	38 50/20 12	211,099 86
122	BLK 05 LOT 32 SEC 02 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666731	38 50/20 12	211,601 57
123	BLK 05 LOT 33 SEC 02 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666732	39 00/20 12	213,171 57
124	BLK 05 LOT 33 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667789	38 50/20 12	200,861 17
125	BLK 05 LOT 36 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732997	36 00/20 12	193,988 03
126	BLK 05 LOT 43 & 44 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS C	T-733004/005	72 00/20 12	302,471 66
127	BLK 06 LOT 05 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666013	36 00/20 12	197,280 18
128	BLK 06 LOT 09 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666963	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
129	BLK 06 LOT 17 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671234	37 00/20 12	209,652 80
130	BLK 06 LOT 24 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666976	38 50/20 12	203 033 49
131	BLK 06 LOT 27 SEC 06 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732360	36 00/20 12	194,211 02
132	BLK 06 LOT 30 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672573A	38 50/20 12	208,036 19
133	BLK 07 LOT 04 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673147-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
134	BLK 07 LOT 08 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673151A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
135	BLK 07 LOT 08 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-733039	36 00/20 12	194,511 57
136	BLK 07 LOT 14 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673769A	38 50/20 12	194,670 41
137	BLK 07 LOT 34 SEC 06 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732416	36 00/20 12	192,902 17
138	BLK 08 LOT 01 & 03 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673579-A/581	80 50/20 12	331,605 99
139	BLK 08 LOT 15 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672838A	38 50/20 12	200,781 32
140	BLK 08 LOT 28 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673200-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
141	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673818A/814A	77 00/20 12	321,205 99
142	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666052	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
143	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673818-A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
144	BLK 09 LOT 21 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673233-A	38 50/20 12	205,405 69
145	BLK 09 LOT 27 & 29 SEC 04 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670972/74	77 50/20 12	335,510 18
146	BLK 09 LOT 28 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671306	38 50/20 12	207,020 69
147	BLK 10 LOT 03 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673255-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
148	BLK 10 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 04 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671010/08	68 00/20 12	359,093 48
149	BLK 10 LOT 18 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673053	38 50/20 12	210,564 54
150	BLK 11 LOT 01 & 03 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666077/75	72 00/20 12	306,305 89
151	BLK 11 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673301A/299A	77 00/20 12	321,205 99
152	BLK 11 LOT 13 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672276	38 50/20 12	199,492 18
153	BLK 11 LOT 14 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672308-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
154	BLK 11 LOT 15 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673878-A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
155	BLK 11 LOT 16 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673879-A	41 00/20 12	205,242 66
156	BLK 11 LOT 24 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672287-A	38 50/20 12	204,730 18
157	BLK 11 LOT 26 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672769-A	38 50/20 12	211,601 57
158	BLK 11 LOT 30 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672773-A	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
159	BLK 11 LOT 32 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672775-A	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
160	BLK 12 LOT 18 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668107	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
161	BLK 12 LOT 21 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672024-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
162	BLK 12 LOT 21 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673353-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
163	BLK 12 LOT 22 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673902-A	38 50/20 12	210,534 72
164	BLK 12 LOT 22/23 SEC 01 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CA	T-668111/668112	83 00/20 12	345,614 20
165	BLK 12 LOT 30 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672333	38 50/20 12	201,539 67
166	BLK 13 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672833A/831A	77 00/20 12	337,010 35
167	BLK 13 LOT 08 SEC 01 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668120	36 00/20 12	187,250 36
168	BLK 13 LOT 11 SEC 03 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670628	38 50/20 12	211,264 68
169	BLK 13 LOT 14 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668126	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
170	BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668127	36 00/20 12	187,449 15
171	BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673387A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
172	BLK 13 LOT 17 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668129	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
173	BLK 13 LOT 19 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673391-A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
174	BLK 13 LOT 21 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672844A	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
175	BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668135	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
176	BLK 13 LOT 28 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668140	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
177	BLK 13 LOT 31 SEC 03 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670648	38 50/20 12	209,807 36
178	BLK 13 LOT 35 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673407A	38 50/20 12	213,704 60
179	BLK 14 LOT 03 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673115A	38 50/20 12	211,488 89
180	BLK 14 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672871A/873A	77 00/20 12	333,272 00
181	BLK 14 LOT 11 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I SUBD. BRGY QUINTANA, TANZA CAVITE	T-673423-A	38 50/20 12	203,854 92
182	BLK 14 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668157	36 00/20 12	206,344 00
183	BLK 14 LOT 35 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673447	38 50/20 12	205,525 32
184	BLK 15 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668195	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
185	BLK 15 LOT 14 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668197	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
186	BLK 15 LOT 16 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668199	36 00/20 12	204,231 57
187	BLK 15 LOT 40 & 42 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668225/223	72 00/20 12	312,164 15
188	BLK 18 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668227/229	84 00/20 12	340,231 58
189	BLK 18 LOT 03 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668304	45 00/20 12	225,142 02
190	BLK 20 LOT 17 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668324	36 00/20 12	199,287 31
191	BLK 21 LOT 26 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668369	36 00/20 12	187,449 15
192	BLK 23 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668427/429	72 00/20 12	319,625 51
193	BLK 23 LOT 19 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668444	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
194	BLK 24 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668461	36 00/20 12	198,522 59
195	BLK 24 LOT 17 & 18 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666469/467	88 00/20 12	361,800 84
196	BLK 25 LOT 08 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668473	36 00/20 12	192,708 11
197	BLK 25 LOT 08 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668475	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
198	BLK 26 LOT 12 & 10 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668489/491	72 00/20 12	324,415 20
199	BLK 27 LOT 03 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668507	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
200	BLK 27 LOT 22 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-668526	40 00/20 12	218,592 80
201	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 10 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690993	35 00/20 12	174,150 57
202	BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691617	35 00/20 12	178,211 44
203	BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 1A SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688912	35 00/20 12	176,450 06
204	BLK 01 LOT 20 SEC 05 SUNNBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749753	35 00/20 12	177,497 61
205	BLK 02 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691629-631	75 00/20 12	289,173 35
206	BLK 02 LOT 08 & 08 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691632/630	75 00/20 12	303,665 15
207	BLK 02 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 06 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690478-690480	70 00/20 12	266,025 16
208	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691637	35 00/20 12	179,288 87
209	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 08 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690769	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
210	BLK 03 LOT 08 & 08 SEC 07 SUNNYBROOKE I BRY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690562/560	70 00/20 12	293,748 17
211	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 10 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691029-027	70 00/20 12	278,155 00
212	BLK 03 LOT 07 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749799	35 00/20 12	176,537 82
213	BLK 03 LOT 13 SEC 08 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690814	35 00/20 12	171,890 76
214	BLK 03 LOT 14 SEC 11 SUNNYBROOKE PH I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691344	35 00/20 12	172,791 29
215	BLK 04 LOT 05/07 SEC 04 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689981/689983	75 00/20 12	289,630 15
216	BLK 04 LOT 08 & 08 SEC 07 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690584/690582	75 00/20 12	298,368 01
217	BLK 04 LOT 13 SEC 14 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-692049	35 00/20 12	171,890 76
218	BLK 04 LOT 14 SEC 14 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-692050	35 00/20 12	176,214 90
219	BLK 04 LOT 19 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749839	35 00/20 12	180,794 08
220	BLK 05 LOT 02 SEC 08 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-750173	35 00/20 12	192,405 15
221	BLK 05 LOT 05 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690295	35 00/20 12	187,064 16
222	BLK 05 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689053/55	85 00/40 24	421,155 66
223	BLK 05 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689056/054	85 00/40 24	409,935 04
224	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 05 PH II SUNNYBROOKE BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749856	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
225	BLK 05 LOT 20 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749860	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
226	BLK 05 LOT 26 SEC 03 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689755	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
227	BLK 06 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 12 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN, TRIAS CAVITE	T-691705/703	70 00/20 12	289,508 20
228	BLK 06 LOT 13 SEC 14 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-692099	35 00/20 12	206,255 31
229	BLK 06 LOT 17 SEC 03 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689777	35 00/20 12	183,080 60
230	BLK 07 LOT 05 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749909	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
231	BLK 07 LOT 11 SEC 13 PH I SUNNYBROOKE BRYG ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691925	35 00/20 12	171,890 76
232	BLK 07 LOT 15 SEC 12 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691732	35 00/20 12	178,390 34
233	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 12 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691736	35 00/20 12	186,888 46
234	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691933	35 00/20 12	206,255 31
235	BLK 08 LOT 06 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689110	35 00/20 12	180,356 38
236	BLK 08 LOT 18 SEC 07 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690657	35 00/20 12	182,801 65
237	BLK 09 LOT 05 SEC 04 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749708	35 00/20 12	181,618 15
238	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 04 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690127/25	75 00/20 12	298,081 45
239	BLK 09 LOT 10 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689129	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
240	BLK 09 LOT 16 SEC 03 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689860	35 00/20 12	180,887 17
241	BLK 09 LOT 16 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749976	35 00/20 12	177,523 30
242	BLK 09 LOT 30 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749990	35 00/20 12	175,849 68
243	BLK 10 LOT 20 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749219	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
244	BLK 11 LOT 19 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689180	35 00/20 12	182,801 95
245	BLK 11 LOT 21/23 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689182/689184	70 00/20 12	286,257 20
246	BLK 12 LOT 03 SEC 11 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691455	35 00/20 12	175,888 20
247	BLK 12 LOT 14 SEC 02 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689188	35 00/20 12	178,504 97
248	BLK 12 LOT 15 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688397	35 00/20 12	221,356 36
249	BLK 13 LOT 10 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE PH I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688425	35 00/20 12	176,450 06
250	BLK 13 LOT 27 SEC 10 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691277	35 00/20 12	170,089 71
251	BLK 14 LOT 26 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688474	35 00/20 12	189,135 42
252	BLK 14 LOT 28 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688476	35 00/20 12	184,394 52
253	BLK 15 LOT 14 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689271	35 00/20 12	169,067 24
254	BLK 15 LOT 19 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-688500	35 00/20 12	180,491 33
255	BLK 17 LOT 18 SEC 11 SUNNY BROOKE BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691550	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
256	BLK 17 LOT 28 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688575	35 00/20 12	178,504 97
257	BLK 18 LOT 16 SEC 02 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689332	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
258	BLK 19 LOT 25 SEC 02 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689368	35 00/20 12	172,186 60
259	BLK 22 LOT 11 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749404	35 00/20 12	177,132 50
260	BLK 22 LOT 11 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689451	35 00/20 12	174,023 14
261	BLK 22 LOT 28 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689468	35 00/20 12	176,648 20
262	BLK 23 LOT 14 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688759	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
263	BLK 23 LOT 25 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688770	35 00/20 12	309,356 36
264	BLK 25 LOT 14 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688807	35 00/20 12	180,491 33
265	BLK 25 LOT 16 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688811	35 00/20 12	177,122 07
266	BLK 29 LOT 15 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688884	35 00/20 12	189,356 36
267	BLK 33 LOT 01 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE PH II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749030	35 00/20 12	191,427 85

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Interested parties are required to secure copies of: (a) INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS and (b) BID FORMS from the office of the Acquired Asset Management, 11th Flr Pacific Center Bldg. San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
2. Sealed proposals in triplicate shall be received at the Office of the Acquired Asset Management, 11th flr Pacific Center Bldg. San Miguel Avenue Ortigas, Pasig City starting 8:00 a.m. not later than 2:00 p.m. immediately afterwhich, the said proposals shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders.
3. Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT in CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER'S/ MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila, payable to the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) in an amount equivalent to at least TEN PERCENT (10%) of the total bid price.
4. Properties shall be sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from the HDMF.
5. All bidders are advised to visit/inspect the properties for bidding before posting their bid proposals.
6. If the bidder who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he/she BIDDED during and after the bidding, his/her deposit shall be FORFEITED and failure of bidding shall be declared.
7. All awards by the Bidding Committee shall be subject to the approval / confirmation of the VP-NCR Housing Operations, North Sector / Manager – Acquired Asset Management, North Sector.

HDMF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY THEREIN OR ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE FUND. THE DECISION OF THE FUND IS FINAL AND BINDING.

(PDI–Nov. 28, 29 & 30, 2003)

ACQUIRED ASSET MANAGEMENT Tel No: 634-8344 / 634-83-01 / 6375431

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

PDIC Extension Office, 6782 SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Telephone No. 841-4000; Fax No. 841-4926; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph;
Email: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and installation of Fingerprint-based Time Recording System and the printing of the 2002 Annual Report.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PARTICULARS	UNITS/COPIES	APPROVED BUDGET
1. Fingerprint-Based Time Recording System	8	P1.375MM
2. Printing of 2002 Annual Report	2,000	P345,000.00
Source of Funding	2003 Corporate Operating Budget	
Pre-bid Conference	December 18, 2003, 2:30 PM at the 9th Flr., PDIC Extension Office, SSS Bldg., Ayala Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	
Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements and Proposals	December 29, 2003, 2:00 PM at the Bidding Room, 9th Floor, PDIC Extension Office, SSS Bldg., Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	
Opening of Envelopes containing the Eligibility Requirements and Proposals	December 29, 2003, 2:30 PM at the Bidding Room, 9th Floor, PDIC Extension Office, SSS Bldg. Ayala Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	

The Instructions to Bidders and the Terms of Reference shall be made available to interested bidders starting December 1, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat, 9th Floor, PDIC Extension Office, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City after payment of a non-refundable amount of P300.00 for each item to be bid.

Criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification shall be on non-discretionary pass/fail basis.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidder's participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(FOR GOODS, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

(PDI--Nov. 29 & Dec. 6, 2003)

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WANTED PROPERTY for IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

- Metro Manila
- 7,000 sq.m. min. to 1-2 has.
- Along major road, preferably crossroad
- High pedestrian & vehicular traffic
- Within densely populated area
- Long-term lease of 15 to 20 years

Please submit:

- Lot plan and vicinity map
- Lease rate offer

To:

Ms. Karen Villanueva
P.O. Box No. 465
Araneta Center, Cubao,
Quezon City 1109

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City Tel. No.: 928-4501 to 09
Cable Address: "Philcoa" P.O. Box 3386, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bidding the property described below.

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY
17,332 Square Meters with Improvements under TCT No. 20592 of the Registry of Deeds for San Pablo City	Barangay San Ignacio, San Pablo City, Province of Laguna

Bid documents shall be available upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) at the Office of the Secretariat, PCA Real Property Disposal and Appraisal Committee, 2nd Floor PCAR & D Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City from **December 1-6, 2003.**

Sealed bid proposals shall be submitted and dropped at the Bid Box located at the Office of the Secretariat before the scheduled opening of bids on **December 10, 2003** at 2:00 p.m.

Sealed bid proposals shall be opened in the presence of the participating bidders at the Executive Lounge, 8th Floor R & D Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

The sale of the property shall be on "As Is, Where Is" basis.

PCA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any defect or informality therein and to accept such bid proposals considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSEFEL P. GRAGEDA**
Acting Chairman
PCA Real Property Disposal & Appraisal Committee

(PDI - Nov 29, 30 & Dec. 1, 2003)

INVITATION

SeaCrop Feeds and Fertilizers Technology Center, a duly licensed producer of organic based farm inputs is inviting all interested individuals and agri-business companies in the following areas – LUZON – CAR, Region 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 – EASTERN VISAYAS – 8 – and – MINDANAO – 9, 10, 11 and 13 for a **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES** on the following **SeaCrop** products:

1. **SeaCrop** Seaweed Based Fortified Foliar Fertilizer for Vegetative and Reproductive Stage on Rice, Corn and High Value Crops (Banana, Cut flowers, Vegetables, Sugarcane and Fruit Trees)
2. **SeaCrop** Seaweed Based Fortified Powder Fertilizer for Vegetative and Reproductive Stage on Rice, Corn and High Value Crops (Banana, Cut flowers, Vegetables, Sugarcane and Fruit Trees)

The above products are scientifically formulated according to the requirements for Low External Input for Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA). Interested parties may contact this address:

SEACROP FEEDS AND FERTILIZERS TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Purok 1, Brgy. Lanao
9400 Kidapawan City
Mobile Phone No. 0917-726-6436

Canadian Provincial Nominee & Immigration Services
Form No: 001

APPLICATION FOR IMMIGRATION / PERMANENT RESIDENCY

I-Please specify category for which you are applying
- ❑ Family Class
- ❑ Student
- ❑ Business/ Entrepreneur
- ❑ Investor
- ❑ Skilled Worker
- ❑ Independent/Self-employed

II-PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full name (as shown in the passport/travel document)

(Family Name) (Given Name) (Middle Name)

2. Date of Birth_____ (day/mo/yy) / Place of Birth _____ Country of Citizenship _____

III-EDUCATION

a. Highest Level of completed education:
- ❑ Secondary
- ❑ High School
- ❑ Vocational/Trade/Apprenticeship
- ❑ College
- ❑ Bachelor's degree
- ❑ Master's degree
- ❑ Ph D
- ❑ Others (Specify) _____

b. Current Occupation _____ How long? _____ (years) _____ (months)

IV-Language proficiency / **Principal Applicant:** **Spouse:**

Language	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Language	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair
English					English				
French					French				
Others (Specify)					Others (Specify)				

V-Marital Status
- ❑ Married
- ❑ Single
- ❑ Divorced/Separated
- ❑ Widow/widower
- ❑ Common-Law

VI-Spouse Detail (if married)

a. Full name (as shown in the passport/travel document)

(Family Name) (Given Name) (Middle Name)

b. Date of Birth _____ day/mo/yy) / Place of Birth _____ Country of Citizenship _____

c. Children's Detail (if any) Please use extra sheet if necessary

Name	Date of Birth / Place of Birth

VII-DO YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES IN CANADA?
- ❑ Yes
- ❑ No

VIII-WHERE DO YOU INTEND TO LIVE IN CANADA
City/
Town _____ Province _____

IX-CONTACT DETAILS

Address: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Please fill application and mail to: Canadian Provincial Nominee & Immigration Services, 5255 Yonge St., Suite 705 Toronto, Ontario, M2N 6P4, Canada. Tel 01-416-447-7033 / fax 01-416-447-7002 / Email: inquiry@cpnis.com

N.I. TEIJIN SHOJI CO., LTD.

A Japanese trading firm engaged in Cleanroom System and Consumables for Semicon-Industry is in search for a

BUSINESS SERVICE ASSISTANT

to be responsible for Administrative & Business Monitor

Qualifications:
- Female, 22 to 28 years old and graduate of any four-year course
- Possesses excellent oral & written communication and interpersonal skills
- Knowledgeable in MS Office applications
- Highly-motivated, result-oriented and understands the demands of the job

Interested applicants may apply in person with comprehensive resumé & recent photo to:
18F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas Makati City

"Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for interview"

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Imported **PAPER BAKING CUPS**

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- different colors and designs (baking cups)
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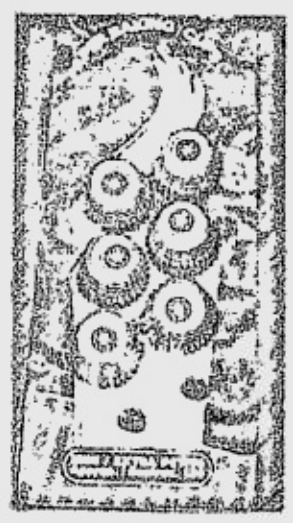
- best as food containers / food packaging



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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The National Historical Institute-Bids and Awards Committee invites contractors classified and registered with Inter-Agency Committee on Registration and Classification of Contractors to apply for eligibility and submit bid for **Partial Restoration of San Anders Apostolic Church, Masinloc, Zambales.**

Approved Budget P5,000,000.00
Project Duration ..... 130 calendar days

Interested parties are advised to submit Letter of Intent and photocopy (with original for authentication) of Registration of Business Name and Certification of Registration and Classification on December 1-3, 2003 at the BAC Secretariat, National Historical Institute, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. Eligibility Statement Forms shall also be issued on the said dates.

Duly accomplished Eligibility Statements shall be placed in a sealed envelope and shall be submitted to the BAC Secretariat on December 5, 2003, not later than 4:30 p.m. No eligibility statement shall be received after the said date and time.

Bid documents shall only be issued to eligible bidders on December 16-17, 2003 by the NHI Secretariat upon presentation of the original Certificate of Eligibility.

Bid proposals shall be submitted in two (2) sealed brown envelopes with the name of the project to be bid and the name of the bidder in capital letters, addressed to the NHI BAC Chairman, T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila. The "First Envelope" shall contain the accomplished Technical Statements. The "Second Envelope" shall contain the financial proposal.

Submission and opening of bids is on **December 22, 2003** at **10:00 a.m.**

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act No. 8194 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The NHI reserves the right not to open bids at all and restart the bid process, to reject any and/or all prequalification and/or bids, waive any defects therein, and accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **EMELITA V. ALMOSARA, CESO IV**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI–Nov. 29, 2003)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"WE SERVE"

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the implementation of a BULK WATER SUPPLY PROJECT subject to the following rules and procedures:

I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Pre-qualification documents may be obtained after payment of a non-refundable fee of five thousand pesos (Php5,000) from December 3 to 10, 2003, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM from:

THE SECRETARIAT
BWD PBAC Comprehensive Water Supply Project
BWD Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City
Telefax No. (074) 444-7245

II. PRE-QUALIFICATION

Envelope A shall contain the following documentary requirements:

a. *Legal*
- ✔ DTI Certificate of Registration
- ✔ SEC Registration
- ✔ Mayor's permit/Municipal License/Business Permit
- ✔ Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN)
- ✔ Duly notarized certification/acceptance of the requirements of bidding (form to be obtained from the Secretariat)

b. *Technical*
- ✔ Statement of ongoing and completed government/private contracts

c. *Financial*
- ✔ Audited financial statements marked "received" by BIR for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing total and current assets and liabilities.

Deadline for submission of Envelope A shall be on December 17, 2003. The bidder or his/her representative shall personally submit all requirements insofar as the as the latter is authorized through a notarized Special Power of Attorney. Envelope A shall be opened in the presence of the bidder or his/her authorized representative on December 18, 2003 thereafter an evaluation of the submitted requirements shall be conducted. The proponent/bidder shall be subsequently notified of the results of evaluation on the same day. Proponents/bidders with lacking documents (conditionally pre-qualified) are given until December 23, 2003 to comply.

Those who complied and are pre-qualified shall submit Envelope B, which shall contain the following:

1. Specific water source, which should be outside of Baguio City. The water source must have an accompanying valid and updated Water Permit for domestic use issued by the National Water Resources Board; with possessory rights, as well as other legal documents indicating tenurial rights over the water source.
2. Commitment as to the water source's capability to supply 50,000 cubic meters per day of quality, potable water which conforms with Philippine Drinking Water Standards.
3. Comprehensive Feasibility Study of the water source.
4. Bid security/bond in the form of a bank guarantee equivalent to 1.5 percent of their financial proposal or investment cost.
5. Commitment from a licensed bank to extend credit line if awarded the contract; in an amount equal to at least 10 percent of the investment cost.

Deadline for the submission of Envelope B shall be on March 17, 2004. Should there be more than three bidders, the results of the evaluation of the Contents of Envelope B shall be known not later than April 17, 2004. If there are only one or two bidders, then the results shall be known earlier and the bidding proper can likewise be done earlier. A Pre-bid Conference follows after the release of the evaluation of the feasibility study on a date to be disclosed to qualified bidders/proponents. A Bid Bulletin shall be issued after the Pre-bid Conference shall have been concluded.

III. BIDDING PROPER

Qualified bidders shall now be furnished copies of the draft of the contract and be required to submit Envelope C not later than three (3) days from notice of the results of the evaluation of the contents of Envelope B. Envelope C shall contain:

1. Notarized Commitment to deliver the water at the Ambiong Tank, Aurora Hill, Baguio City not later than September 30, 2005 and;
2. The *bid price per cubic meter*,

which shall be publicly opened at 2:00 PM three (3) days after their submission. The Baguio Water District (BWD) shall immediately declare the winning bidder/proponent at the same forum. Notice of Award shall also be issued to the winning proponent where a Contract and signing thereof shall take place five (5) days after receipt of the said Notice.

Within five (5) days after the Contract signing, the winning proponent is required to:

1. Post a Performance Bond in the form of a Bank Guarantee equivalent to ten percent of the total investment cost. The Performance Bond shall be posted in favor of BWD and shall be forfeited in favor of BWD in the event it is established that the winning proponent/bidder is in default in any of its obligations under the contract.
2. The winning proponent shall likewise secure Right-of-Way, Environmental Compliance Certificate, permits, licenses and other legal documents within three (3) months from the signing of the contract.

(PDI – Nov. 29 & Dec. 7, 2003)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 / 722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
VIGAN CITY

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND TO BID

1. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Vigan City, Republic of the Philippines, has received a grant from Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) towards the cost of the Raois-Mira Hills Parallel Transmission Line Project under the Integrated Water Supply and Management System for Vigan City and intends to apply the proceeds of this grant to eligible payment under the contract, for which the Invitation for Prequalification and to Bid is issued.
2. The City of Vigan hereinafter referred to as the "Owner" intends to prequality contractors for the construction of:

Name of Project	Proposed Additional Water Supply System for the Raois-Mira Hills Parallel Transmission Line Project
Location	City of Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Contract Duration	180 Calendar Days
Scope of Work	Construction of a proposed 635-cum concrete ground reservoir and rehabilitation of the existing 760-cum concrete ground reservoir at Mira Hills (complete with civil works including piping system, appurtenances and all necessary works).
Approved Budget for Contract	P6.33 M

3. Prequalification is open to firms and voluntarily joint ventures.

Schedule of application for prequalification and bidding as follows:

a. Submission of Letter of Intent and Issuance of Prequalification Documents	From Dec. 08-12, 2003 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P100.00
b. Submission of Duly Accomplished Prequalification Documents	Not later than 5:00 p.m. Dec. 19, 2003
c. Issuance of Plans/Bid Documents to Prequalified Bidders	Jan. 05-09, 2004 upon payment of non-refundable amount of P10,000.00
d. Site Visit/Bid Conference	Site Visit 10:00 a.m./Pre Bid Conference 2:00 pm on January 15, 2004
e. Submission/Opening of Bids	Not later than 10:00 a.m. Jan. 29, 2004 at Bidding Room, Bids and Awards Committee, Vigan City

For issuance of Bidders Prequalification Form and Plans/Bid Documents, you may contact:

The City Planning and Development Officer
City Hall, Vigan City
Tel. No. (077) 722-8772 Local 105

The City of Vigan reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or formality therein, to accept bids considered responsive and most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO P. RANCHES, JR.
City Vice Mayor
Acting Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Nov. 29 & Dec. 6, 2003)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting Offers to Purchase on an "As Is - Where Is" basis the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
001-002	2 commercial lots, 318 & 738 sq.m. With titles	Phase II, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig	PhP10,000/sqm. & PhP15,000/sq.m.
003-028	25 commercial lots, lot sizes ranging from 240 sq.m. to 324 sq.m. With titles	Mayon Vista Hills Subd. Brgy. Tuburan, Ligao City, Albay	PhP1,540/sq.m. to PhP1,700/sq.m.
029	7,170 sq.m. tilled commercial lot	Sea Breeze Homes Brgy. Sip-Ac Sorsogon City	PhP800/sq.m. or PhP5,736,000.00

Payment schemes for the above cited properties are cash, modified cash (6 equal installments without interest) and installment for a maximum period of ten (10) years with graduated interest rates.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the *Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)*, Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Bidding Materials for Bicol properties can also be secured from the NHA Legaspi Project Office, 3rd Floor, ANST Bldg. 2, Rizal St. corner Rivera St., Old Albay, Legaspi City. For further inquiry, please contact the following persons: Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos or Ms Neri A. Subido at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4561 local 263 & 264;

SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC BIDDING	PASIG	BICOL
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	Nov. 24 to Dec. 3, '03 Office Hours, CIED-NHA Bldg. Elliptical Road, Quezon City	Nov. 24 to Dec. 10, '03 Office Hours, NHA Legaspi Project Office
B. Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 3, '03, 10:00 AM Operations Center, 3rd Floor NHA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Q.C.	Dec. 10, '03, 10:00 AM NHA Legaspi Project Office
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	Dec. 5, '03, 9:00 AM - 12:00 NN Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Dec. 12, '03, 8:00 - 10:00 AM NHA Legaspi Project Office
D. Opening of Sealed Bids	Dec. 5, '03, 1:30 PM Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Dec. 12, '03, 10:15 AM to 12:00 NN NHA Legaspi Project Office

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 22 & 29, 2003)

ACCOUNTING PERSONNEL

- CPA, female, not more than 28 years old
- precise and able to work with minimal supervision
- excellent oral & written communication

Please personally submit your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 ID picture to:

SANDIGAN SHIP SERVICES, INC.
Suite 1109 Ermita Center Building
1350 Roxas Boulevard, Ermita, Manila
Tel. Nos. 5259727 or 5259730

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of **TRI-O REALTY, INC.** shortening the term of its existence up to **June 30, 2003** thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date have been approved by its Board of Directors.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present same at **374 Columbia St., East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.**

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

(Sgd.) **MA. ADELA M. SANTOS**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI - Nov. 22, 29 & Dec. 6, 2003)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

1999 Hyundai Starex Van/WJP-152
1997 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6/URU-573
1996 Mercedes Benz/UPY-565
2000 Ford Lynx/WNN-358

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc.
Dick Cariño, Tel. # 878-54-57

(PDI – Nov. 29 & 30, 2003)

The wonderful Christmas shows comes to town!

A UNIQUE concept in Christmas shopping is coming to town! Dubbed as "The Wonderful Christmas Gift and Food Show" back to back with "The Great Christmas Toy Show." This most awaited event will hit the metro on December 17 to 21 at the Megatrade Hall, 2 5th Flr. Bldg. B of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Some of the special novelty items to be found at the Wonderful Christmas Gift and Food Show include Super Yoyos from Smarty Toys, the Kris Aquino Holiday Collection from Leonardo Bags, wines and spirits from Louis McLean, toys and hobbies from CS Central, homemade cheese spreads, pasta sauces, liquor cakes, dips and dressings from Love's Recipe, the "best pandan salad in the metro" from Don Co and Associates, and goods from Duty Free Philippines, baked goods from Janivieve Bakeshop.

Staples for Christmas food preparation will also be at the show such as Nestlé Cream, Carnation Evap, Century Tuna, Swift Hotdogs, White King and Swift Corned Beef.

Moms will definitely enjoy preparing for Noche Buena with cooking demos such as: Cooking with Nestlé Carnation and Nestlé Cream and A "Complete" recipe from White King Hotcake and Waffle Mix.

Kids will enjoy the Super Yoyo Show and Clinic by Smarty Toys Corporation, Arts and Crafts Workshop from Li'l Hands and Crayola, Bite and Smile with Delight from Chips Delight and Smiley's, featuring games and mascots from Galinco, among others. Parlor games sure to delight the kids include the Slides and Ladders Contest, The Great Christmas Shootout, the Tickle Toes Contest with clowns, mascots and more, or they may just play with toys, toys and more toys at the Toy land play area.

A major highlight of the Show is the Celebrity Toy Museum which features an exciting display of the favorite toys of your favorite celebrities. Those interested to have booths at The Wonderful Gift and Food Show may contact the organizer NeoTrade Enterprises with contact numbers 812-9099 or 812-3973.

Sponsors for the event include Crayola and Li'l Hands, Enchanted Kingdom, Mrs. Field's Cookies, Swifts, Sunkist, White King, Duty Free Philippines, Ban Kee Trading (Beyblade, Gundam, Yu Gi Oh) C&J Party Needs, Winner's Travel & Tours, Seiwa Manpower Agency, Astron Communication Systems, Galinco, Pearl of the Pacific Boracay and Smarty Toys. Media partners are Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, IFM 93.9, 103.4 K-Lite, 105.1 Crossover, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Women's Journal.

The Manila Jaycees Inc., Asia's first and premiere leadership development organization, presents "Victoria London at the Forum," a Christmas lingerie fashion show. This event will showcase the latest line of lingerie by velvet rose featuring ten (10) supermodels, led by Ms. Victoria London (center). Photo shows members of the committee JC Wayne Hau (left), JC Princeton Tan (second from right) and Project chairman by JCI Senator Jason Ong (right).

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate

❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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In Loving Memory
On the FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY of

JOSE P. DANS, JR.

September 26, 1928 - November 29, 1998

The 6:00 pm Mass will be offered
in the following Churches:

Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, *Kanlaon cor. Retiro St.*
Sacred Heart Parish, *Kamuning, QC*
St. Paul the Apostle, *Mother Ignacia Ave., QC*
John the Baptist Parish, *Pinaglabanan, SJ*
Hearts of Jesus and Mary, *West Triangle, QC*
Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary, *Quezon Ave., QC*
Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, *UP Diliman*
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, *New Manila, QC*
Sta. Maria Della Strada, *Katipunan Ave., QC*
Santuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati*

"Rest, victor, sleep and rest
You have given your very best..."

AFC FERTILIZER AND CHEMICALS, INC.
AND NISSHO IWAI CORPORATION

condole with the family
of its President, Raymund P. Ilustre,
on the demise of his daughter.

HANA CAMILLE S. ILUSTRE

who passed away on November 27, 2003.

Her remains lie in state at the Faith Chapel,
Don Bosco Church, Makati City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 30, 2003,
at the Santiago Mausoleum,
Manila South Cemetery,
after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Don Bosco Church.

Lovingly Remembered, Dearly Beloved

DOLORES M. DINGLASAN

On her First Death Anniversary
November 29, 2003

Holy Mass is being offered today at the following churches:

Basilica of the Immaculate Concepcion, Batangas City ..... 6:15 a.m.
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene, ... 7:00 a.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, Quiapo, Manila
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Sunvalley, Parañaque City . 6:15 a.m.
Sta. Cruz Parish Church, Sta. Cruz, Manila ..... 8:00 a.m.
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Baclaran, Parañaque City

Her family would like to thank friends, relatives and readers
who remember her in prayer.

CAMILLE S. ILUSTRE

March 18, 1987 - November 26, 2003

Peacefully joined her Creator
at the age of 16.

Her parents **Emon** and **Lois Ilustre**; brothers **Javier** and **Martin**; grandmothers **Rudi L. Santiago** and **Dety P. Ilustre**; aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews and nieces; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Faith Chapel, Don Bosco Church, Makati City.

Interment will be on November 30, 2003 at the Manila South Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

DIADEMA "DIDA" PALMA JOVEN

Died peacefully on November 27,2003 at the age of 62.

Her loving husband **Nolasco Joven**; daughter **Diana Joven-Buenconsejo** and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sto. Domingo Church, St. John Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 30, 2003, 8:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

DEATH NOTICE

HELEN P. RELLOSA
(April 28, 1953 - November 19, 2003)
Joined our Creator at the age of 50.
Interment will be on November 29, 2003,
10:00 a.m.
Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer...

Psalm 21:15

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
Region I Field Office

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) hereby invites offers to purchase by way of sealed bids on the following properties:

NAME/LOCATION OF PROPERTY			REMARKS	HOUSE AREA., sm	LOT AREA, sm	MINIMUM BID PRICE, Pesos
1. Villa Manaoag Subdivision, Phase I						
Inventory Bgy. Pugaro,						
Manaoag, Pangasinan						
	BLK NO.	LOT NO.				
	1	6	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	163.00	180,000.00
	1	11	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	142.00	180,000.00
	1	12	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	154.00	180,000.00
	5	4	House & Lot/Titled	24.00	162.00	180,000.00
2. Villa Manaoag Subdivision, Phase II			Lots only/Titled		16,681.00	4,737,981.51
(70 lots) Bgy. Pugaro, Manaoag						
Pangasinan						
3. Block 6, Lot 31, Villa Pozorrubio			House & Lot/Titled	25.00	60.00	225,000.00
Subdivision, Bgy. Alipangpang,						
Pozorrubio, Pangasinan						
4. 160 Castro-Sarmenta Subdivision,			House & Lot/Titled	102.00	185.00	650,000.00
Bolosan District, Dagupan City,						
Pangasinan						

A bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's check payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders.

The bidder is advised to inspect the actual condition of the property/ies subject of public bidding. All property/ies are being sold on "as-is" basis. Particulars may be obtained at the Region I Field Office, 2/F Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City, or call (074) 443-60-33 (074) 443-95-85, or (074) 446-48-81.

Sealed bids must be received on or before 2:00 p.m., Monday, 15 December 2003 at the 2/F, Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFER, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 26, 29 & 30, 2003)

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio Philippines Tel No (632) 812-6209

PNOC The Energy Company

INVITATION TO BID
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders to bid for the lease of the following PNOC properties:

Description and Location of Property	TCT No.	Area (sq.m.)	Minimum Bid
1. Vacant Lot Juan Luna Ave. cor. A. Soriano Ave. (within North Reclamation) Area) Cebu City	7016	1,026	P97,000/month
2. Vacant Lot Poblacion, Lingayen Pangasinan	195481	1,019	P29,000/month

Bid forms, bidding guidelines, terms and conditions can be secured during office hours of **December 1-15, 2003** from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Estate Management Department, PNOC Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.

A pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on **January 14, 2004**.

Award of the lease of the above properties shall be based on the ***BEST OFFER/PROPOSAL*** received from the bidders.

The bidder further acknowledges that he/she has been given every opportunity to investigate, inspect and verify the properties offered for lease to ascertain the actual conditions thereof as well as the status of the titles.

PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bid offers/proposals or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids or portion of bids as may be advantageous to PNOC.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization
of PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI – Nov. 28 & 29 & 30, 2003)

UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

A. The University of the Philippines Diliman hereby invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for its bidding for:

1 lot ANALOG VOIP ADAPTERS, etc.

B. The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Devt. Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

1. SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
2. 2003 Business License/Permit
3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2001 & 2002) marked "received" by the BIR with the accompanying Audited Financial Statements
4. Company Profile
5. List of clients and reference, and supporting documents
6. List of company equipment and other assets
7. Duly notarized statement of the duly authorized representatives of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agencies, offices or corporations

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS.

The above-mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with Table of Contents and properly tabbed. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO.

C. Deadline for submission of pre-qualification documents: December 5, 2003.

D. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.

E. The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of a selected bidders, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered most advantageous to the University.

F. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief, SPMO, anytime during office hours at the above-mentioned address or call tel. no. 920-5374 (direct) and 920-5301 local 4331, 4230 and 4911.

(Sgd.) **EMERLINDA R. ROMAN**
Chancellor

(PDI - Nov 22 & 29, 2003)

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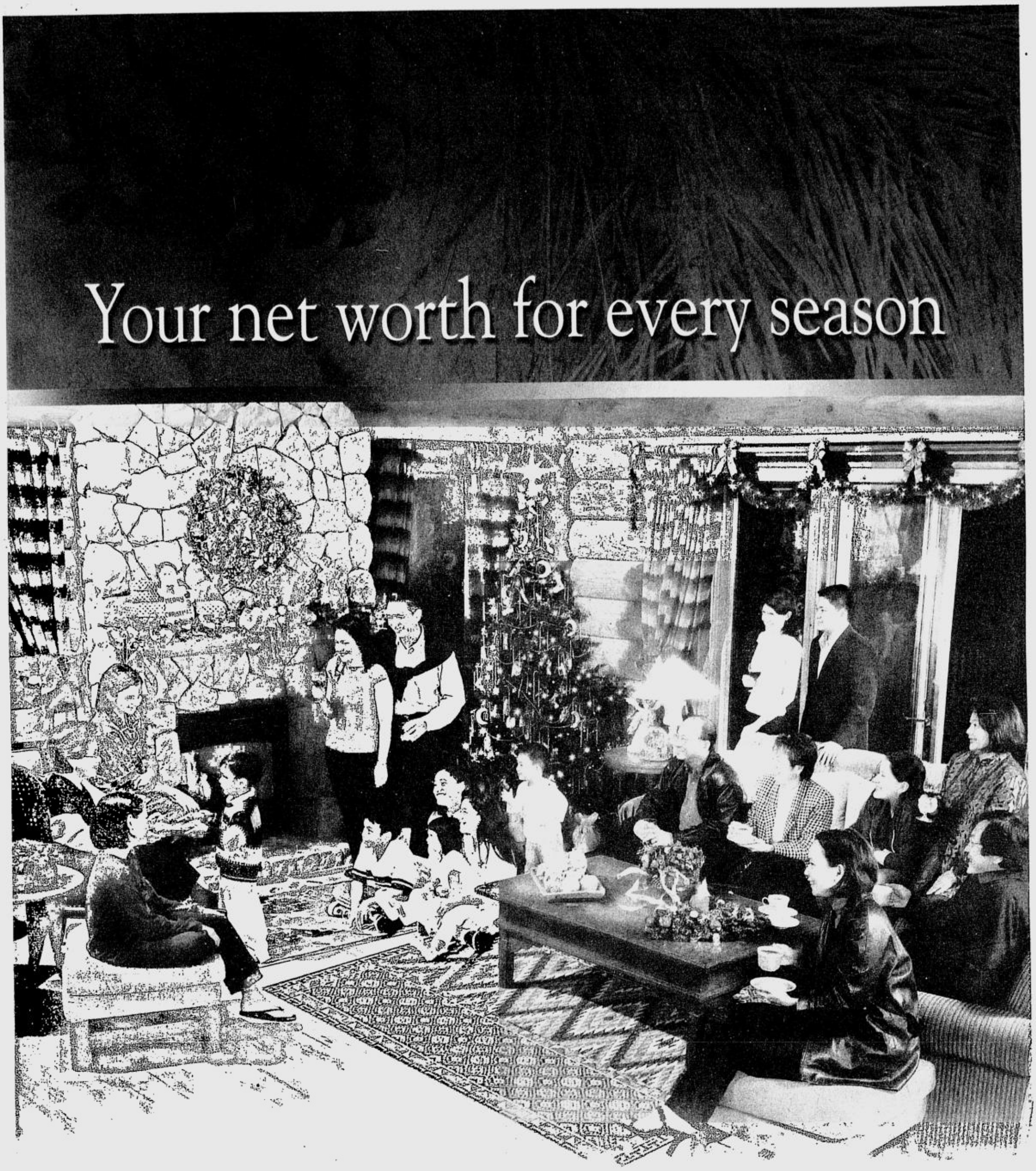
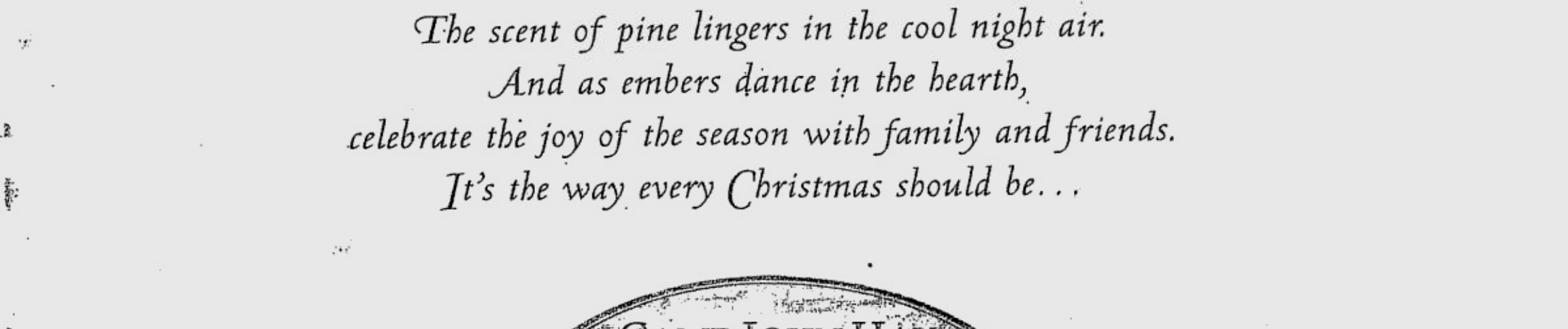


The scent of pine lingers in the cool night air.
And as embers dance in the hearth,
celebrate the joy of the season with family and friends.
It's the way every Christmas should be...

CAMP JOHN HAY
Estates



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2003 C1

ÉLAN

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Keep it simple

By Marge C. Enriquez

AS THE holiday season approaches, expect an influx of fashion and beauty editorials, since these products make great presents. Product launches ride the Christmas shopping mania to great advantage.

For this issue, art director **Antonio Salac Santos** suggested that contributing photographers **Tom Epperson** and **Denise Weldon** go artsy for the grooming and beauty pictorials. Although the visual essays are marketing-driven, conceptual photography deftly illustrates the artistic process and the abstract aspects of a business, in this case, the products. A fusion of fine arts, theater, the human body and poetry, the essays nurture their own world—authentic, though not physically existent—and take on a higher form of creative expression. Conceiving an idea and making it real is a truly worthwhile undertaking.

Epperson is accustomed to shooting the female form. The figurative study with Paris-based Croatian model **Daniel Topic** is Epperson's rare close encounter with the male figure.

Santos was inspired by Japanese photographer **Eikoh Hosoe's** portraits of literary avante-garde artist **Yukio Mishima** with roses. For this shoot, Topic's body is reminiscent of the Christ figure—one with a saffron veil covering the face, and another with just a white shroud, surrounded by white petals. "The softness of the roses contrasts with the musculature," Santos notes. Another image portrays Topic winging it through life.

Explains Santos of this shoot about men's perception of their bodies: "I liked the idea of water and cloth clinging to the body."

Digital enhancement by graphic artist **Arnold Lorenzo** enabled Epperson to be more flexible in producing transfigured realities to profess his vision. As the medium is imbued with personal ideas, possible answers to questions on life, death and resurrection emerge. The strength of the images surfaces all the more when the manipulated reality is presented as such. The question, "Is this real?" does not arise.

The raw photographs were stunning, to start with. Epperson captures cuts and contours with dramatic lighting. He explains that he favors "extreme" lighting, or using one light source to bring out the shadows.

"I'm a firm believer in one lighting," he says. "It shows the character of the person."

Although he admits, photographing a man's body was challenging, he still succeeds in catching moods and attitudes, a trademark of his portraits.

His technique is no secret at all: rapport. "You get them out of themselves," he explains. By being very honest he is able to make the subjects drop their defenses, and sometimes even take on different personalities. Taking every cue, he then clicks away.

In contrast to the sensual male shoot, our makeup and beauty shot has an ethereal quality. Weldon sticks to classic photography technique—the use of film, the intimacy of the studio and no post-production enhancement. Santos continues the use of flowers from Weldon's garden and tendrils from Pakistan.

"The flowers add softness to the metallic but earth-toned makeup colors. The holiday feeling is there, yet it's warm," says Santos.

The self-effacing Weldon would rather let her work speak for itself. For this first shoot with ÉLAN, she points her lenses inward, towards her soul, rather than outside to the world. I've been accustomed to complicated pictorials. Working with Denise, I realize that image simplicity is the best way to powerful communication.

After all, simplicity gives birth to inspirations.

We'd like to hear from you. Please e-mail us at pdi_elan@inquirer.com.ph.

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To gift or to get

An excellent multi-tasking device

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

WHEN Sony Ericsson's P800 was introduced last summer, it was the ultimate smart phone, packed with features and a camera to boot.

Six months later, the much-awaited successor has arrived—the smarter P900. Two of my cousins, and my hard-to-impress dad, are faithful users of the P800, but they are all excited about the P900. Even those who don't currently own a P800 have been looking forward to this new offering from Sony Ericsson. My best friend, a finance executive, practically jumped from his seat when I mentioned that I was going to try it out.

I think the reason Sony Ericsson phones have been making waves is the company has built a reputation for manufacturing world-class handsets with ground-breaking features that other manufacturers then try to duplicate.

Now I can see what all the fuss is about. The P900 is an excellent multi-tasking device. It can do everything but your laundry. It is a mobile phone with e-mail, Internet and Instant Messenger capabilities. It is a fully featured PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) with a stylus. It has a camera with a video recorder, an MP3 player and advanced widescreen gaming. Like the T610 and Z600, the P900 supports both Java and Morphun games. It has a 65K color display which is massive for a typical phone, and this enhances images on display. The extra large touch screen makes WAP surfing easier, too.

Sexier

Basically, it has all the features of the P800, but the P900 is an enhanced model based on the same platform with a modified design. It is convenient for users of the former because the P900 is based on the Symbian Interface, (which is widely accepted as the best one for a smart phone—also officially accepted as the largest selling OS for smart phones) with established UIQ interface.

Design-wise, the P900 is much sexier than the rounded P800. It is slightly thinner with a brushed metal-like finish and a toned-down monochromatic black-and-gray color that looks more industrial when compared to the light-blue P800. The chromium-plated keys are stretched across the keypad more comfortably than the P800, and the P900's keypad is electronic—similar to the Nokia 8910 series but bigger and better back-lit. This is a change from the P800's passive flip keypad that just pressed the touch screen.

The Jog Dial, a standard feature even in the Sony Clie PDA, really helps simplify menu navigation especially in closed mode, when you don't need to use the stylus. As with its precursor, it is a five-way Jog Dial that rolls up and down and moves forward, back, and in.

The speaker phone function is excellent; conversations without a headset are comfortable because volume is more than adequate. There is also a recorder function for voice notes, or for adding your own sounds to Multi Media Messages or to your Ring tone Portfolio.

Impressive

This polyphonic phone is now 24-tone, compared to the 16-tone P800. It supports any MP3 file as a ring tone, and the resulting sound is unparalleled as far as ring tones go. And the built-in music player is a proper MP3 player that supports track lists with the option "manage tracks." It works well in flip closed mode and you can jump to a specific point of the song using a slide bar. Of course it has a radio, too.

In terms of contact management, there is nothing to complain about. The P900 is well organized and easy to use. You can store multiple numbers, email addresses, mailing addresses, and even notes for a contact. You can also use picture caller ID and "voice tags" for your contacts.

The camera can take pictures of up to VGA (640 x 480) resolution, at one of three quality settings. The camera can also be used to take smaller 320x240 or 160x120 images. For Mpeg4 video clips, the image resolution is 176x144. You can have unlimited video recording with sound, as long as the memory will allow. Expectedly, it has the Quick share function, introduced in the T610, that allows you to take photos in only two clicks. Overall, it's quite impressive for a camera phone. The P900 has 16 MB user memory plus a 32 MB memory stick Duo storage media. It has lots of space!

This lifestyle-enhancing machine of course is Triple band, Blue tooth-capable and is able to view Word, Excel and Power Point documents. The handset comes with a PC suite as well as a content and application CD for additional applications, audio files, games, MMS templates, sounds, wallpapers and screensavers.

Changes from the reliable P800 are mostly aesthetic. They added and improved a few functions, but aside from the added video capabilities, the changes are incremental rather than outright new features. Sony Ericsson has outdone itself.

SONY Ericsson P900 has become a status symbol among the businesspeople.

Packed

I have always preferred a smaller phone; in fact I didn't even think about the P800 when it came out last year. But at 150g, this phone is pretty small for all the features packed into it. And with an organizer and phone in one, you are actually saving space. This is the same logic I use when wrestling with the price of the P900, which as expected, is on the higher end. How much would you spend on a separate PDA and phone after all?

The features of the P900 are endless. It sounds like a complicated phone with all its bells and whistles but it is really very user-friendly. As a testament to this, my demo handset came with only German instructions, for some reason. The absence of logical instruction was frustrating and at first I was overwhelmed. But within an hour, it felt as though I'd had it all my life.

I see high-powered, successful people on the go picking this as their phone of choice. Sony Ericsson wisely introduced it during the Christmas season, too. If you can afford it, the P900 is definitely a great gift for someone who has everything.

Email the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

Splendor of life on the cusp

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

Life on the Cusp
Edited by Rita Ledesma and Mert Loinaz
Pasig City: Anvil Publishing, Inc., 2003, 267 p.

TO BEGIN with a piece of unsolicited advice: read "Life on the Cusp," edited by Rita Ledesma and Mert J. Loinaz. There is a good chance that you will become a better person. A better person, according to Randy David, is "gentler, less angry, less arrogant, more appreciative of friendships and of those moments not directly translatable into functional time."

The elegant volume offers inspiring narratives by varied personalities that describe individual journeys in the quest for freedom to live out their dreams. Pandy Aviado's exquisite collages serve as signposts between the covers.

Age of unlearning

A distinction made by the literary critic Roland Barthes came to my mind after reading the book—a distinction between an age of learning what we do not know, an age of teaching what we know, and finally an age of "unlearning" in order to learn anew. For Barthes, this experience of "unlearning" goes by the "illustrious and outdated name" of *sapientia* or wisdom (etymologically linked to the Latin *sapor*, meaning taste or flavor). It is the age when one realizes that he or she has "no power, a little knowledge, a little wisdom, and as much flavor as possible." This epithet certainly applies to the men and women that contributed their essays in this book.

What exactly is meant by "cusp"? Although commonly linked to the in-between stage between groupings of heavenly bodies in astrology, the term is used here to refer to the "transition from midlife to late adulthood." All the writers have passed the age of 50, which a Jesuit guru claims to be an age when you have either proven whatever it was you wanted to prove or not; and if you have not proven it, you will never prove it; so you might as well just enjoy life.

Centering, decentering

The editors divided the anthology into three sections, represented by the three phrases of a complete sentence: "Gathering the reins of our lives ... we master the course ... to discover the Infinite within." The essays do not neatly fit into the three sections. For me, all of them display a two-fold movement of centering and decentering where the Infinite is explored, not only within but also without, encompassing the self.

This second movement of decentering will be most fascinating to readers for it is that moment when one begins anew (then one is truly young), when one focuses on the future (which already presents itself now), and when one gladly embraces change. One cannot but agree with Rita Ledesma that "fascination with life's infinite possibilities" was the wellspring of the collection.

Is it possible to recount one's life story without making oneself the center? Many of the accounts succeed in doing so. In the process, they become "poetic" discourses because they simply revel in the joy of narrating life. One notices the authentic ring of what may be called a "confession," but better rendered by our own term of "*pagtatapat*," a face-to-face sharing of a most intimate experience. One also catches the honest tone, the exuberant (and self-effacing) sense of humor, and the resolute commitment that mark the essays.

It would be unfair to summarize the unique life stories. What I can only hope to do is share "insights" experienced in the reading of certain poignant passages. Mariel Francisco expresses the Pauline dilemma when she admits that "hot temper, impatience, disdain, insincerity, self-doubt, envy, lovelessness, egoism and other less capital sins" continue to inhabit her being. And yet she adds that there are times when "no trace of ill will or hidden motive" can be detected in her being, "only a spontaneous joy" in seeing the people around her "becoming the beautiful persons they were meant to be."

Freedom and responsibility

What impresses Toti Villalon at fiftysomething is a "freedom grounded in responsibility"—a freedom that allows him to be more outspoken, less constrained, more tolerant; a freedom to say what one thinks, to do what one considers important. Maribel Ongpin points out the importance of tolerance when she reminds us that "good motives should never be an excuse for rigidity and self-righteousness, insensitivity and other tyrannical passions." Both Lourdes Montinola and Sony Maramba likewise strive for the freedom or liberation from "stuff" or "possessions." Maramba asks, with childlike sincerity: "How did I acquire so much, middle-class and basically plain as I am and a frank recycler of gifts?"

This freedom which bestows one with an unbearable sweet lightness (according to Maricris Olbes and Grace Marie Katigbak), which enables one to fly (according to Anabel Alejandrino), to reinvent oneself (according to Joy Virata and Ding Roces) paradoxically comes only after what I like to call (after Paul Ricoeur), the "joyful consent to necessity or limitations."

After all the peregrination (most of the contributors are cosmopolitan travelers), there is the undeniable joy of finally having found a "niche" (Tweetums Gonzalez on her veranda facing Mt. Makiling; Bobby Perez gazing from his monastic cell at the early morning sky, Josie Lichauco, Linda Panlilio, and Pinky Valdes discovering unique passions).

This niche is the "still point" (according to Rita Ledesma), the steadfast joy at the center of one's being (according to Bambi Harper), the ground of one's being (according to Jim Paredes). And it is found in what is nearest and most intimate to us—our *kalooban*. Randy David goes straight to the heart of the matter when he begins his narrative: "It first came to me, I think, in the form of a summons to create an inner life." No longer caring for wealth, power, or recognition, one "unlearns" or experiences true wisdom, which is living in the moment, living without fear, living in openness to the Unexpected.

One closes the book with vibrant images lodged in the mind —Mariel Francisco dancing with her begging bowl, Toti Villalon relishing the luxury of silence in his hotel room, Jaime Zobel scuba-diving, and Sylvia Mayuga dancing again with NM, "sailing through a rose window, the colors of time brilliantly staining the white radiance of eternity."

E-mail the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu

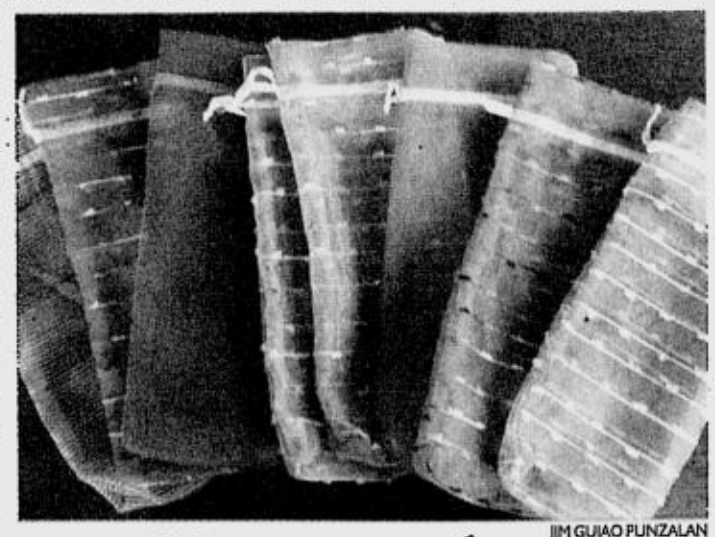
Curls are back

FEATHERY soft flipped styles, iron and twists, and curly updos are the trends this season. Since it's party time again, curls create the look for any special occasion. Whether carefully styled or casually set, curls give volume and movement to the hair. Curls dress up any hair length. If you don't have naturally curly hair, you can still create the look with a perm.

Hairdresser Ricky Reyes introduces the Heat Wave, a permanent wave treatment that gives instant body to dull flat hair without the dryness and frizz. Heat Wave chemicals are similar to those used for Perma Straight or rebonding. The solution contains amino acids that protect the hair right down to the cuticle. This method needs only a dozen curlers, with ionic plates that heat up to curl the strands. The hair is placed under a Heat Wave machine for 15 mintues. This results in soft waves instead of a frizz and doesn't end in annoying knots and tangles. For low maintenance, moisturizing gel products define curls.

Call Heat Wave Alert Center, tel. 721-7705.

SOFT curls for women of a certain age like Gloria Romero



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Pouch-perfect

EARRINGS. Bracelets. Necklaces. Rings.

Collecting these fashion essentials makes living spaces smaller, especially when there are no fixed places for them.

Now you can store jewelry in delicate organza pouches that can thus help organize your life.

Small pouches fit a pair of earrings or chocolate candies. Medium-sized ones can keep soap, or larger jewelry pieces. As for the utility bags, you can take them with you when you travel, to store undergarments and such. The wine bags can hold any bottle.

As a set of four or six, they make perfect gift items—simple, elegant, practical. By C-THRU, tel. (0917) 531-1264.

When sunscreen is not enough

SUN exposure causes the skin to crease and droop. Shiseido has produced Wrinkle Lifting Concentrate, which makes the skin feel stretched and firm after only two weeks of use.

Most moisturizers give the illusion of diminishing wrinkles through hydration. Wrinkle Lifting Concentrate goes into the deeper layers.

Studies have shown that ultraviolet rays, not the natural aging process, are the bigger villains when it comes to creating furrows on the face. Constant application of sunscreen does not guarantee total protection from UV rays.

There are two important proteins in the epidermis that facilitate healthy blood circulation. UV exposure creates an imbalance in the protein levels which lead to abnormal blood vessels. In turn, they alert the skin to create the enzyme elastase, which destroys the elastic fibers that support the skin. The skin loses its resilience and starts to wrinkle.

Shiseido has also developed a Photowrinkle System containing Cholorella which corrects the protein imbalance and controls wrinkle formation. It also contains Retinol A Complex, which sloughs off excess surface cells to smoothen lines and improve skin performance.

HSBC's Night of REDiscovery

It was a night of fashion, beauty and red-hot style as the RED MasterCard from HSBC launched RED Instalment, its 0% Instalment Plan, at the Temple Bar & Restaurant in Greenbelt 2. Women were in high spirits with the launch of this exciting card feature that makes for smart and guilt-free shopping. With RED Instalment, women can rediscover the joys of shopping as they are now able to buy the things they most aspire for at 0% interest up to 24 months.

The REDiscovery began with a message from HSBC CEO Warner Manning and continued with the introduction of RED MasterCard's Five Icons: model and VJ Amanda Griffin, style maven Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Cartwheel Foundation president Gina Alfonso, MyLK chef Melissa Sison and Capoeira enthusiast Cookie Duran. All five women embody the spirit of the RED MasterCard from HSBC. They are successful individuals who have made their own marks in their chosen fields. Stylish, aggressive, creative and beautiful, they are all modern women who hold testimony of how this exclusive card can be a woman's best friend.

The night's journey was made complete by a Fashion Show of Stores Specialists, Inc.'s latest apparel and a performance by singer Bituin Escalante. The REDiscovery, however, went on with all-night partying.

The RED MasterCard from HSBC is the first card exclusively for women in the Philippines. For over two years now, it has enabled women to live the lives they please. Today, women can rediscover the card's benefits with RED Instalment, its 0% Instalment Plan offered in the very shops they frequent! The participating shops include all SSI stores such as Prada, Gucci, Ralph Lauren, Nine West, Burberry, Beauty Bar and Lush as well as SM Appliance Center, Our Home, Make Room, True Value, Ambiance One and Maco. Moreover, cardholders can receive exclusive discounts at selected establishments such as The Spa, Urban Spa and Discovery Spa.

Until 13 December 2003, cardholders get discounts on food and drinks as well as freebies when they use their RED MasterCard at the following establishments in Greenbelt: Bizu Patisserie, Casa Armas, Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Hue Vietnamese Bar & Restaurant, Italianni's, MyLK, National Sports Grill, Nuvo, Oody's Restaurant, Pepato, Recipes, Soleil, Restaurant 12, Temple Bar, The Good Earth, The Seafood Club, Una Mas, Uva and Via Mare Oyster Bar.

Live the life you've always wanted today with the RED MasterCard from HSBC. For more information on how to apply for your own RED MasterCard, call 878-7878, visit www.hsbc.com.ph, or drop by any HSBC or HSBC Savings Bank branch.

ADVT.

The Shopping Swings of Tessa Prieto-Valdes

INTERIOR designer, style icon, and Urban Spa owner Tessa Prieto-Valdes loves to dress things up so naturally, shopping is always in her itinerary. Tessa has an eclectic shopping list, what with items ranging from furniture to road bike accessories!

First on Tessa's shopping list is furniture for her log cabin in Tagaytay. Since Tessa truly values time with her family, she makes it a point to buy various fixtures for their weekend home. Tessa also has a circle of friends who invite her every now and then to chill out and relax so Tessa looks forward to being the life of the party. Coming up with the right ensemble for an event is an enjoyable and crucial activity for her. That is why, Tessa also loves accessories, wigs, hats and trinkets that can add that spice and spunk to her outfit. She has a style that is certainly unique and outrageous, qualities reflected in her purchases.

At times, the queen of makeovers can take on the sporty persona so Tessa is off to hunt for the hottest road bike accessories available. She picked up the sport as a hobby and enjoys the vivid designs and cool accessories it comes with. Tessa invests a lot of time and energy into sports which she feels should be a priority for women her age.

And from sweating it out to partying it out, Tessa's shopping list extends to shopping for unique Christmas décor. She likes having a new look year after year, and to date, Tessa has yet to decide what this year's Christmas theme will be for her humble home.

So whatever mood swing you have, make sure to make a statement. Like Tessa, you can follow your desires with the RED MasterCard from HSBC. Shopping treats are now within reach because of RED Instalment, its 0% Instalment Plan available in leading women's stores, including all Stores Specialists, Inc. outlets.

ADVT

0% INTEREST

NOW WITH Red Instalment

The world's local bank helps you keep in step with world-class fashion. Get the finest signature brands at 0% interest with RED Instalment. Only from RED MasterCard, the country's first credit card exclusively for women. Go ahead and express your style. With RED MasterCard, you can – *so why not?*

Dying to shop? Then get a RED MasterCard now. **Call 878-7878 or visit www.hsbc.com.ph for details. Or you can visit an HSBC or HSBC Savings Bank branch today.**

HSBC
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

REDISCOVER

RED Instalment is available at these Stores Specialists, Inc. outlets:

ANNE KLEIN • ARMANI EXCHANGE • BALLY • BOTTEGA VENETA • BURBERRY • CHARRIOL • COACH • DKNY • GUCCI • JACK SPADE • KATE SPADE • KENNETH COLE • LACOSTE • POLO RALPH LAUREN • PRADA • SALVATORE FERRAGAMO • TOD'S • YVES SAINT LAURENT

Also available at the following establishments: AMBIANCE ONE • ANSON'S EMPORIUM • ARISTON • AUTOMATIC CENTER • AV SURFER • BEST BRANDS • GE APPLIANCES • MACO • OUR HOME • SM APPLIANCE CENTER • SOGO • SONY SHOP • TRUE VALUE • WESTERN APPLIANCES

* *Your monthly instalment amount shall be posted as a regular transaction and shall form part of the total outstanding balance due on each account statement.*

** *If you revolve any portion of the total outstanding balance due in any given month, your monthly instalment amount shall be included in the computation of interest charges for that month.*

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4620 Series of 2003.

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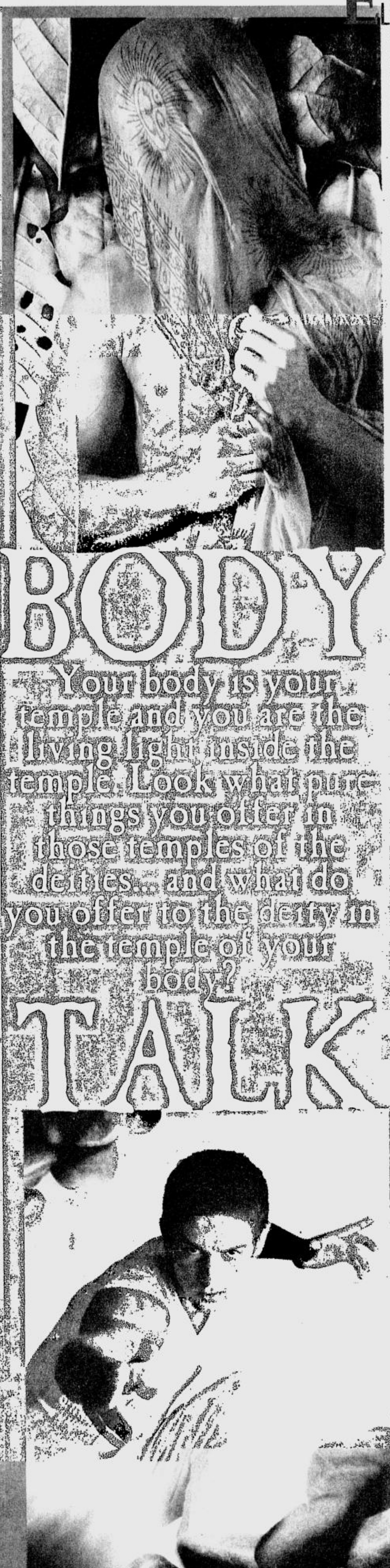

BODY TALK

Your body is your temple and you are the living light inside the temple. Look what pure things you offer in those temples of the deities... and what do you offer to the deity in the temple of your body?

MODEL: DANIEL TOPIC, CAL CARRIES' INTERNATIONAL
FOR THAT BOD: MATIS LINE HOMME, CLARINS MEN, KING OF SHAVE, ACCA KAPPA, A-MEN FRAGRANCE FROM RUSTAN'S
GROOMING: ROLLY ADUCA FOR SHISEIDO
MENSWEAR BY: ANTHONY NOCOM

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Our own Battle of the Bulge

By Martin P. Valdes
Contributor

TOM EPPERSON

THE YEAR was 218 BC. A cruel wind whipped the Alpine mountains into a frozen frenzy, pelting the huddled Carthaginians with hail and sleet. Even the elephants whose hides were thick and weathered shivered in unison as the merciless climate threatened to accomplish what the Roman Empire had so far failed to do.

Hannibal surveyed the white wasteland, his eye reaching far beyond the snowy expanse, searching the distance for his ultimate destination. Italy was close, and at its heart, Rome. A historic victory was within his grasp. Everything was perfect. Now if only he had some lip balm...

History has painted men in bold strokes—the gender has always been portrayed as virile, masculine and strong. The irony is that these attributes are directly related to the state of the human body, and yet men have been stereotyped as being negligent and abusive of their own. We are familiar with Alexander the Great and Ivan the Terrible, but who has ever heard of Jon-Jon the Hygienic?

More body angst

It is expected of men to conquer, to pillage, to subjugate, and to work 40-hour weeks. But it is also accepted that men are prone to excess, indulge in public displays of flatulence, completely miss the toilet bowl, and have no idea how to operate a nail clipper. The truth is, men are concerned about their bodies; tradition has simply managed to muddle their priorities.

What most women do not realize is that we have more body angst than generally suspected. We want to look healthy, attractive, desirable. But we have to do more than just stay vigilant about our waistline; we have to work within a Catch 22 scenario. If we pay too much attention to our physical appearance, we are thought effeminate. If we are negligent, we are slobs. If we develop a belly, we are beer-drinking slackers. If we are too thin, we are 98-pound weaklings. If we lack hair, we are balding. If we are naturally hairy, no one wants to see our naked backs. Much has been written about the intense pressure women undergo in order to look good. Men are not much different, we just suffer in silence.

And we joke about it. We tease each other about our "imperfections," hoping camaraderie would mask individual insecurity. We give each other nicknames like "*negro*," "*bansot*," or "*taba*," as though it were all in the spirit of fun. After all, men aren't supposed to care about such superficial stuff. As for me, if the body is a temple, I wouldn't mind worship instead of amusement once in a while.

Today, more than ever, physical aesthetic is no longer a luxury but a necessity. We exist to compete in almost every aspect of our daily lives. With more people marrying later and more couples separating, finding mates is becoming a harsh challenge. Gone are the days when men simply claimed a wife by virtue of birthright or strength. Modern women are now free to choose the best partner possible. The work environment has also evolved, with more men hired for the "total package," appearance being very high on that list. As one recruiter put it, the face has become a calling card.

Deflating the ego

Pop culture has been most unhelpful towards the male ego. I once watched a corpulent Elvis Presley belting it out, stomach threatening to occupy the stage, and it was great. Also Mick Jagger dripping with sexuality, despite the fact that his face isn't exactly one that would launch half a ship. Today, all the pop idols are younger and better-looking than myself, and have muscles that recall the Colorado landscape. At best, my attempts at self-consolation are futile and temporary. Sure I've got a girlfriend, and I'd like to think my Mensa membership counts for something, but times when I catch my profile in the bathroom mirror, I invariably wish I'd skipped that sixth beer last night.

We face cold, hard facts, my chromosome comrades. We either get with it, or allow evolution to make us memories. We are fighting for our survival here, men. This is a war against complacency, against time, against every stereotype that has been heaped upon our swollen bellies. So suck in that gut and hit the gym, take up a sport, cut down on the *merienda*, and support your fellow soldier.

Hannibal stood over the smoldering ruins of a Roman temple. All around him, the victorious Carthaginians cheered, raising their weapons in salute to a successful campaign. Wrapped in the pelt of a bear he had killed himself, Hannibal turned to his triumphant troops. And though all around him was evidence of a splendid achievement, the great general could not help but wonder, "Does this fur make me look fat?"

Ah, men!

STUDIES show that men would rather have healthy complexion than a luxury watch or signature shoes. Just like women, men today have become more conscious of environmental aggressors that wreak havoc on their skin. Thus the list of grooming products for men are on the rise. Rustan's recommends the following:

Matis Line Homme. Le Reveil Energizing Hair and Body wash. Contains copper zinc and magnesium that combat daily aggressors. Le Rasage Shaving Gel releases a lubricating cream so that the razor glides without scraping the skin. L'Aprez Rasage After-Shave Moisturizing Balm removes the sting after the shave and replaces any skin deficiencies. Radiant Lifting Gel contains cellular regeneration peptide to revive the skin and almond protein oil concentrate to reduce fine lines. Purifying Masque for Men is for stressed skins, with compounds that enhance cell renewal and detoxification. Energizing Conditioner is recommended for dull and drab hair. Contains lupin to stimulate hair bulb renewal, to improve diffusion of nourishing ingredients that stimulate hair growth.

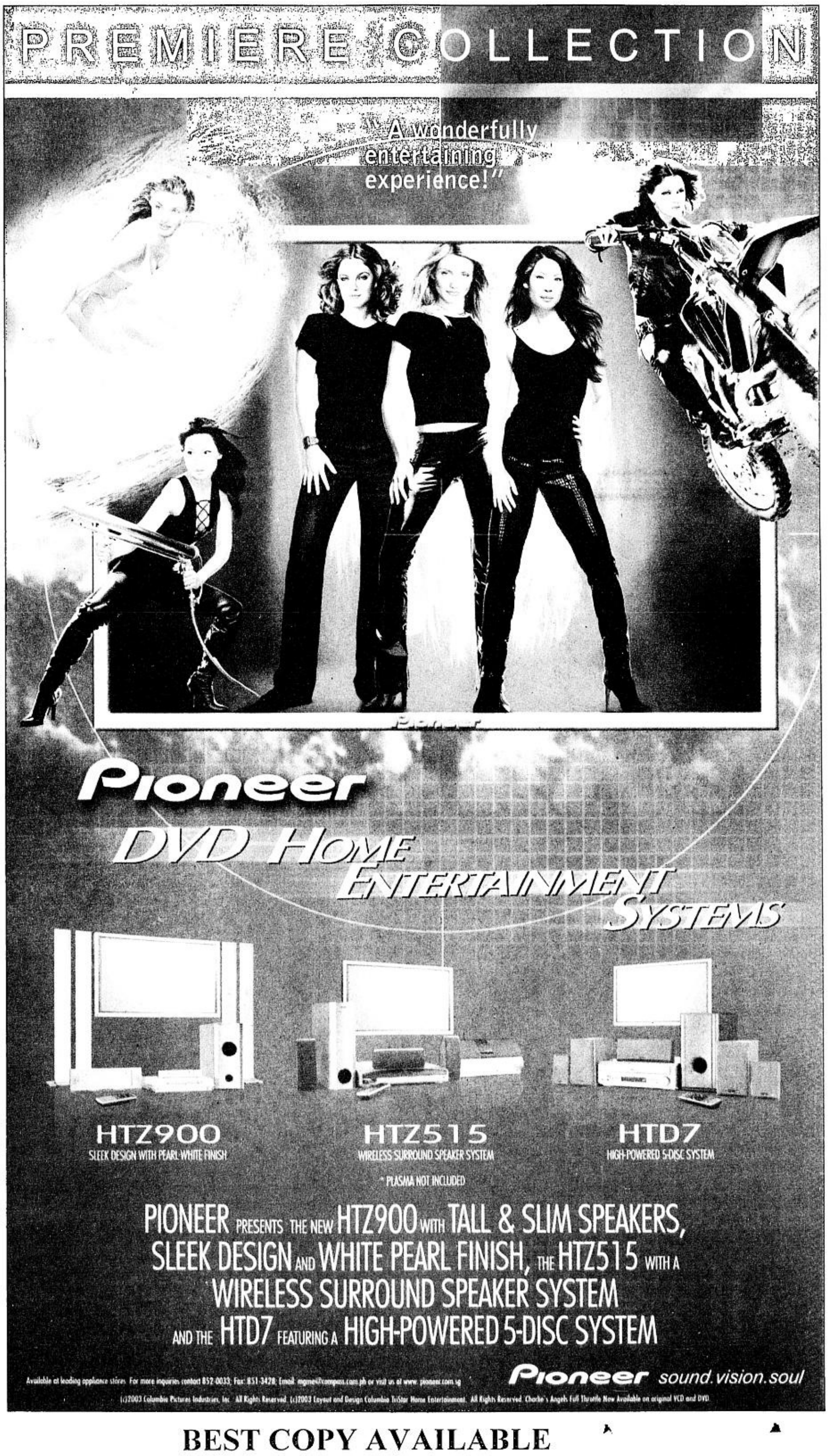
Clarins Men. Because male epidermis is thicker. The line includes an herb called bison grass, which boosts blood circulation. Also contains revitalizing Chinese galanga and purslane, an Indian succulent that calms razor burns. Smooth Shave lifts the hair, helps the razor blade to glide smoothly. Grindelia extract prevents the amassing of bacteria. With eucalyptus, mint and rosemary, Shave Ease softens the toughest stubble and prevents irritation.

Moisture Gel and Moisture Balm firm up the skin and retard regrowth. The Balm is great for excessive temperatures and long-haul flights. Late nights? Fatigue Fighter eliminates dead cells that make the skin look dull and grey. Undereye Serum removes puffiness.

King of Shave. K-First is a daily facial cleanser with mango oil, which enhances the skin's moisture. The K-XF Facial Scrub clears away dirt, blackheads and dead facial tissue. Kinexium Advanced Shaving Oil contains silicones for a smooth glide. Kinexium Unmentholated Advanced Shaving Gel has a cooling effect. Proshave Unmentholated is lubed with silicones and vitamins, prepares the skin for multi-bladed shaving hardware.

Acca Kappa. Cedar Shower Shampoo ensures a deep-cleansing effect while moisturizing the hair follicle. Cedar Collection for Men is a fragrance that has healing properties.

A. Men. Designer Thierry Mugler has come up with a woodsy scent for the active man. Peppermint and lavender whiffs melt into patchouli and Atlas cedarwood scents and then coffee, mellowed by musk and Tonka bean.



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A BEAUTIFUL MIND

Purity comes when I open my soul to the Divine, and let all negativity within me be slowly washed away. Thoughts become fewer, simpler and loveful

Photos by Denise Weldon
Concept and pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

HAIR AND MAKEUP: VICTOR ORTEGA, EMPHASIS SALON
MODEL: SHAN APUAD, CAL CARRIE'S INTERNATIONAL
MAKEUP: CHRISTIAN DIOR FALL-WINTER COLLECTION, RUSTAN'S
FASHION: JAMES REYES

All aglow

CHRISTIAN Dior's holiday glow is inspired by Christmas lights: there are no hard colors, only soft muted tones.

Diorskin Powder compact guarantees a luminous transparency. A delicate blend of oil-free, coated mineral powders even out the complexion. Micro-spheres and mica micro particles act like tiny mirrors reflecting light away from the lines.

Diorblush contains fine talc and mica with amino acids for a veil of fragility. Reflective particles enhance the freshness and radiance of each shade. Pure pigments are mixed in right proportions to match all complexions.

Light and Lasting Eyeshadow comes with a sponge tip applicator for a smooth glide. The amino acids are similar to the compounds in the skin. They liquefy instantly on contact, resulting in lightness and long wear despite their transparency.

BIFIDUS BL: A Breakthrough in Child Nutrition

NESTLÉ Research Centre discovers the key to maximizing your child's brain and body development with the breakthrough ingredient, Bifidus BL.

Bifidus BL is a probiotic - a supplement containing live microorganisms that beneficially affects the body by improving the intestinal balance. Bifidus BL ensures that good bacteria reach the child's intestines alive, to effectively fight bad bacteria (those that cause diseases like diarrhea and food poisoning). Bifidus BL helps children maintain a healthy digestive system, for the optimum absorption of the nutrients he needs. It also promotes a healthy immune response, and reduces the risk of diarrhea, constipation, and diaper rash.

Based in Lausanne, Switzerland, the Nestlé Research Centre has consistently made a significant contribution to the development of products that are functionally close to nature. Bifidus BL is one of the breakthroughs by the Nestlé Research Centre, which is found in Nestlé Premium Growing Up Milk. It also has the powerful combination of BRAIN and BODY BUILDERS for your child's optimum development.

ADVT.

Introducing the only growing up milk with bifidus BL

Helps your child absorb all the nutrients he needs.

Introducing new Nestlé Premium Growing Up Milk for children one year onwards. It has the powerful combination of brain and body builders. And **the only one with Bifidus BL**, especially formulated by the Nestlé Research Centre, **that keeps your child's digestive system healthy for the optimum absorption of the nutrients he needs.**

Your child's future depends on the choice you make today.
Give him the advantage of Nestlé Premium Growing Up Milk.

The Brain & Body Builder

Build your child's brain and body!

A lot of milks can give your one year old nutrients for his brain and body. When choosing your child's growing up milk, look for the following important nutrients:

DHA

Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), from natural fish oil, helps enhance your child's on-going visual and brain development as his brain continues to grow. The toddler years continue to be a time of rapid brain growth, with the growth spurt extending well into the fourth year of life. The observation of concurrent spurts in mental development suggests that brain nutrients, such as DHA, continue to be important throughout the second year of life and beyond.

Taurine

Taurine is the building block of amino acids. Taurine is vital for the utilization of minerals in your child's body. During these crucial formative years of your child, Taurine helps support brain development and aids in maintaining proper eye function.

Iron

Iron is a necessary component of hemoglobin, a protein in the red blood cells that carries oxygen to bodily tissues. It ensures healthy blood, which is vital for the child's active growth. Iron is also crucial for normal immune and cognitive development.

Calcium

Calcium is a mineral necessary for proper bone growth, and the growth of babies' and toddlers' bones is one of the most important nutritional concerns. Research shows that babies and toddlers need approximately 16 ounces of milk a day to meet their calcium requirements.

For more information on Nestlé Premium Growing Up Milk
write to Nestle Consumer Services
PO BOX 155, Manila
or call 898 0061

ADVT.

'Tis the season to celebrate at SM SUPERMALLS

This Christmas, there's no cooler place to chill out with family and friends than at SM Supermalls.

In keeping with the spirit of the season, all 17 branches of SM Supermalls are putting on their holiday best. In addition, an exciting line-up of sights, sounds and contests aimed at spreading and sharing the joys of Christmas has been calendared to run through New Year's Eve. Malling hours have also been extended for the convenience of the shopping public.

The cool Christmas celebration is expected to provide total enjoyment to more and more Filipino families as SM Supermalls widens its amenities to include three newly opened branches namely SM City Lucena,SM City Baguio and SM City Marilao.

The holiday activities kick off with the "Hymns and Voices" repertoire of familiar Christmas melodies. Aptly dubbed "Yuletide Caroling Cheers," the event highlights the talents of guest carolers from various schools and civic groups.

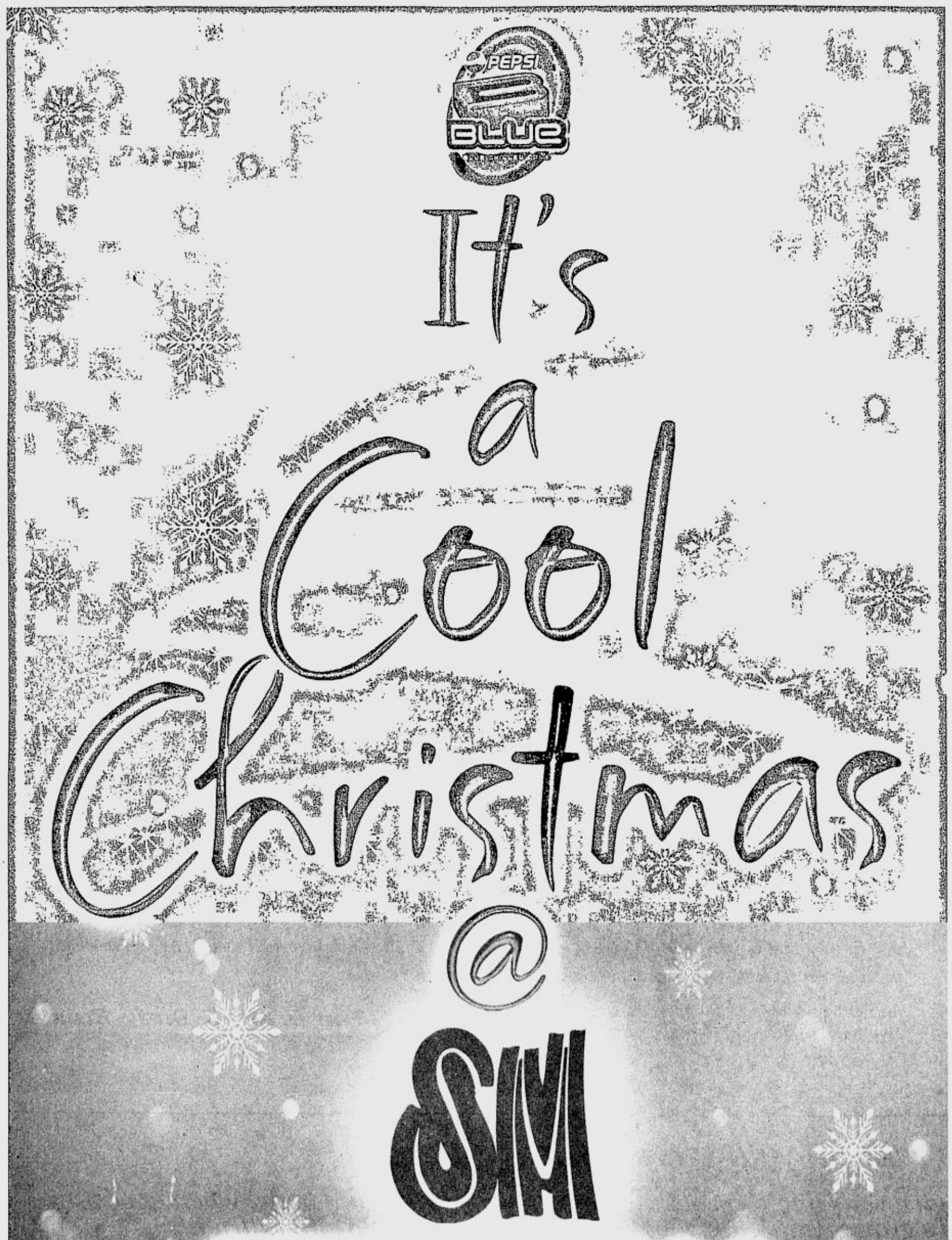
The universal symbols of Christmas - lanterns (parols), tree and crèche (belen) - are given new dimension with the instructions to the competing groups to use only Pepsi materials in the design and construction of these entries.

The event calls for three separate competitions in designated malls:

- Lantern-Making Contest
- On -the-spot Christmas Tree Making Contest; and
- On-the-spot Belen-Making Contest

Winners of the competition will receive hefty cash prizes, certificates of participation and gift packs from sponsors.

To cap the holiday event at SM Supermalls, shoppers will be treated to a spectacular fireworks display just before the bells ring out for the old year and usher in the new.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Yule Tide Caroling Cheers

Guest carolers from various schools and organizations will serenade and fill the air with familiar melodies of Christmas.

All SM Supermalls
3pm & 5pm Mon-Thurs
Dec. 1-4
Dec. 8-11
Dec. 15-18
Dec. 22-24

Santa's Corner

Nov. 23- Jan.12

All Metro Manila SM Supermalls including SM City Pampanga and SM City Cebu

Pause awhile from your shopping and hie off with the kids to old St. Nick's place for a souvenir photo opportunity.

Holiday Pepsi Arts & Crafts Competition

Nov. 25-Dec. 20

Three separate contests using Pepsi materials to create Christmas symbols have been lined up on a regional basis. Interested parties are invited to register and join.

Prizes at stake (all participating malls):

1st Prize.....P25,000 Cash
2nd Prize.....P15,000 Cash
3rd Prize.....P10,000 Cash
Special gift packs from Pepsi Blue

Lantern-Making
- Metro Manila Malls
- SM City Pampanga
- SM City Marilao
- SM City Cebu
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E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre

BACON (left) and Penn star in Clint Eastwood's brooding drama.

'Mystic River' is profoundly moving

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—With Clint Eastwood's profoundly moving "Mystic River," it's as if all the sturdy but generally forgettable movies he directed since "Unforgiven" never happened.

Excellent support

"Mystic River" weaves a rich study of complex characters and moral ambiguity rarely seen in today's big studio films. The performances by Tim Robbins, Sean Penn and Marcia Gay Harden are among the year's best, while Kevin Bacon, Laurence Fishburne and Laura Linney provide excellent support.

Eastwood and his actors create a brooding drama whose events and interrelationships seem surreally improbable yet painfully authentic. The players evoke a palpable sense of community in this tale of a tightknit neighborhood sharing grief, anger and suspicion of outside authority in the aftermath of a young woman's murder.

In "Mystic River," the 73-year-old Eastwood demonstrates he still can be a masterful filmmaker.

Adapted from Dennis Lehane's novel—with a screenplay by Brian Helgeland, who also wrote Eastwood's "Blood Work" script—"Mystic River" traces the lives of three boyhood friends in a working-class section of Boston, who drift apart and are flung together again by events years later.

Tormented by memories of abduction and abuse as a child, Dave Boyle (Robbins) has grown into a shell of the man he might have been, doing odd jobs, drinking beer among neighborhood cronies and shuffling the streets with a downward gaze.

Old chums

His old chums Jimmy Markum (Penn) and Sean Devine (Bacon)—witnesses to Dave's abduction—have become polar opposites. Jimmy's an ex-crime leader who's now a stalwart shopkeeper in the neighborhood and a fiercely adoring husband and father. Sean's a police detective with a wayward wife whose departure has sapped his vigor for anything but work.

The slaying of Jimmy's 19-year-old daughter tears the community apart.

Sean and his partner (Fishburne) are assigned to the case, but intent on vigilante justice, Jimmy rounds up former hoodlum associates to carry out his own investigation.

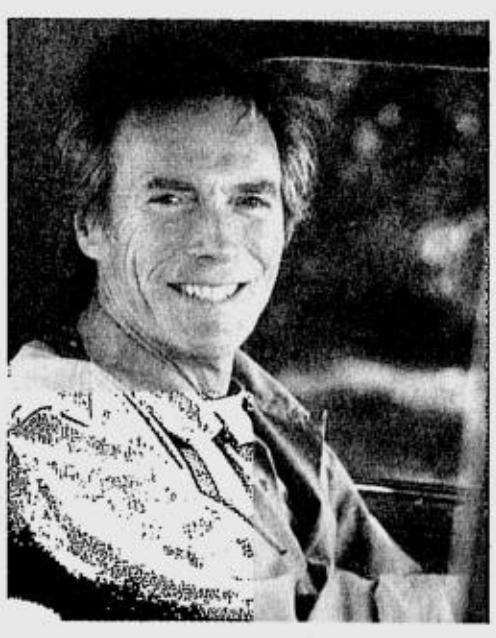
Dave becomes a prime suspect, and emotional paralysis over his childhood trauma leaves him so conflicted he spins a web of conflicting alibis that heighten suspicion among the police.

Eastwood captures fascinating nuances in the film's three key character scenarios. Penn's transformation from grieving to vengeful father, and finally to a man at ease with his questionable actions, is chilling.

Oscar-worthy

Eastwood, who won best-picture and director Academy Awards with "Unforgiven," finally has crafted another Oscar-worthy film. "Mystic River" merits serious awards attention for Eastwood's artfully understated direction, and come nominations time, Robbins, Penn and Harden belong among the front-runners.

AP



EASTWOOD. His latest film weaves a rich study of complex characters and moral ambiguity.

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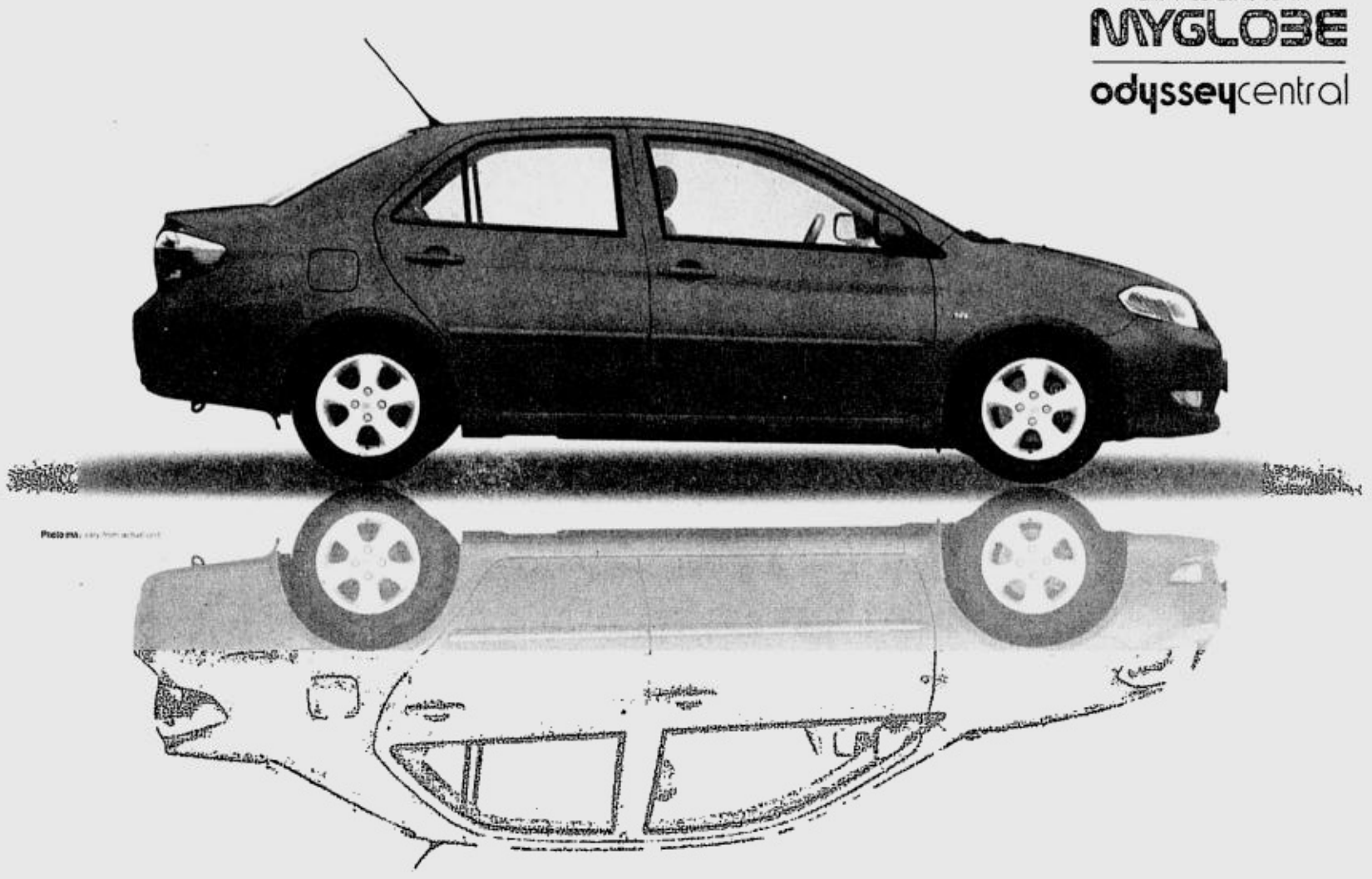

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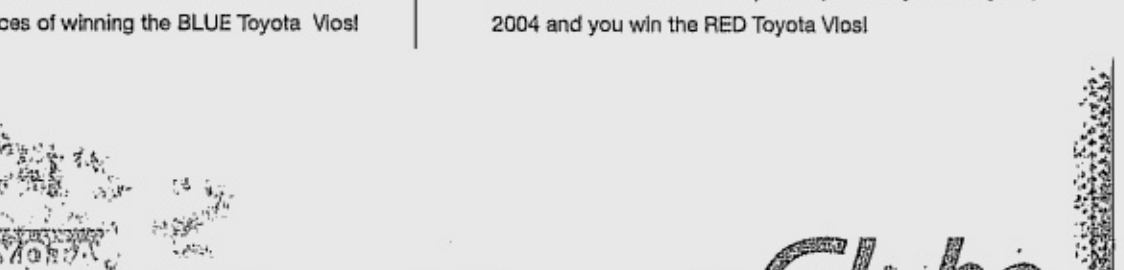

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Foodtripper's dream visit to Chinatown

WITH the coming Yuletide season, the weather has started to chill a little. When this happens, one of the most fun adventures is to walk the streets of Chinatown and just see what dining places you haven't tried.

Widest selection

One morning, I was excited because I was

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

going on a Chinatown food trip with a friend who grew up in the area. Architect Teddy Lee knew the ins and outs of the place.

He knew where to find the creamiest boiled peanuts, the best-tasting *lumpia*, the widest selection of *turo-turo* dishes, the best *kutchay empanada*—etc.!

We were five hungry men sardined into Chef Rox's car—Teddy, Eugene Manalastas, Paxy, Chef and myself.

No one seemed to mind the discomfort because we were focused on our culinary tour. I was excited about the Chinese *turo-turo*, a place that served the best *kutchay empanada* and Chinese *lumpia*.

Hole in the wall

Our first stop was in a "hole in the wall" restaurant called Ang Tunay na Beef House, a *carinderia* patronized mostly by Chinoys. I let Teddy order so we could try something new. (Don't you sometimes get the feeling in Chinese restaurants that the food on the table beside you looks more interesting?)

I pointed to a steamed fish on top of tofu with a nice dark sauce. Teddy ordered the rest: beef soup, tender slices of beef kenchi in a delicious broth, etc. The *M'choy miso* soup was superb. Hot and flavorful, it had thin slices of ginger and first class misua.

The seafood roll looked better than it tasted. It had bananas mixed into it and had to be dipped in mayo. We had two veggies, *mustasa* and shredded salted cabbage.

The frogs' legs would have tasted better if they were newly fried and crunchy. We loved the stuffed shrimps, though.

Other dishes on the menu were duck and braised meat. Interesting! Not everything was great, but the place is truly worth a visit.

Tiny street

From there, we walked down Quintin Paredes, then turned into a tiny street that sold an assortment of things.

This is where Teddy found the creamy boiled peanuts. We walked into the Quick Snack coffee shop and had deep-fried *kutchay empanada*. I was told the *sate Chami* and *siomai* were also delicious. My friends raved about the coffee!

Ang Tunay na Beef House is located along Gandara in Sta. Cruz. Very interesting place.

Happy eating!

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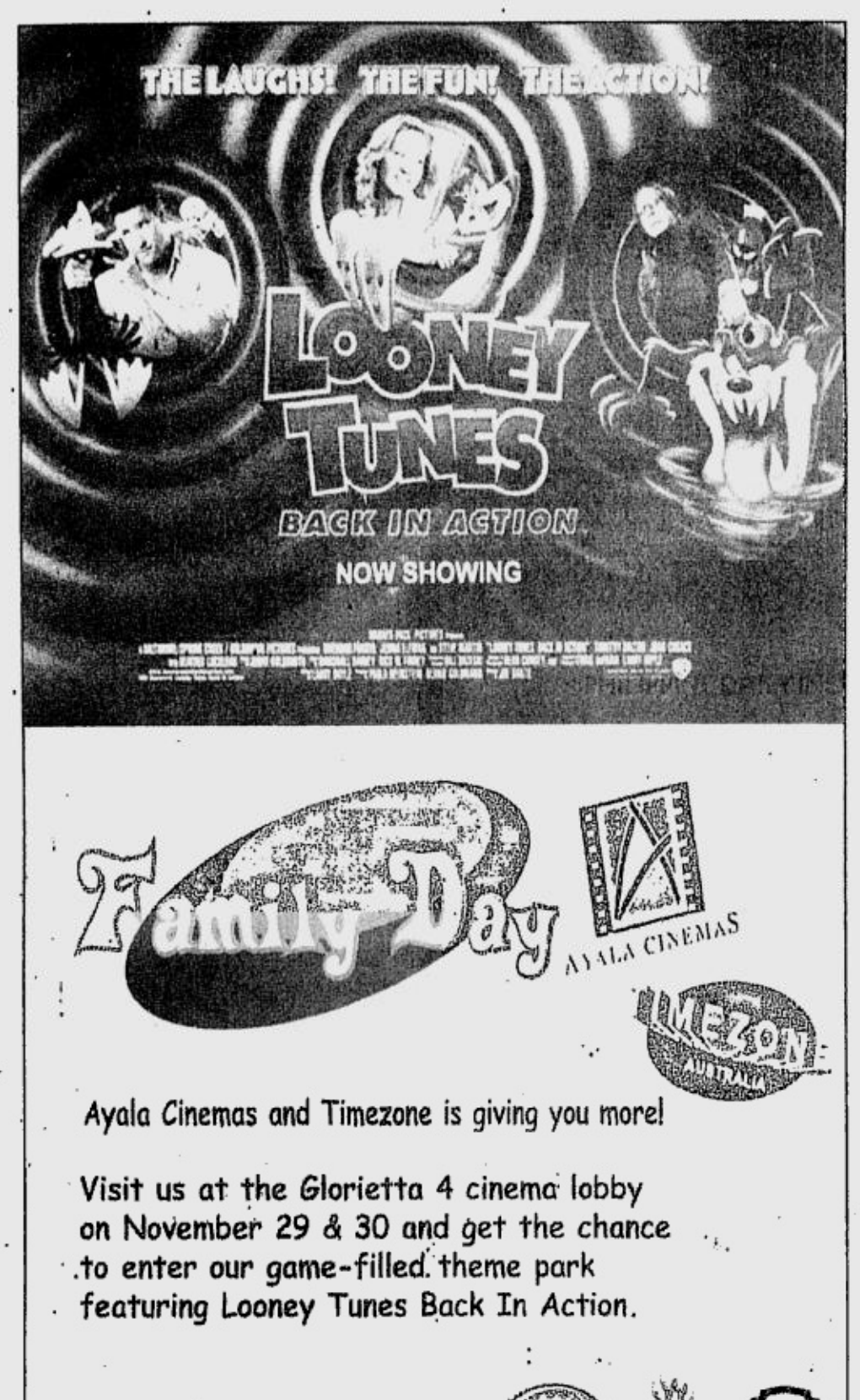

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Ogie Alcasid lives his love songs

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

ALCASID. Creates a "film" in his mind to write his music.

FOR more than a decade now, Ogie Alcasid has been one of our top pop artists. Now, he pours his heart and soul into his latest album, "Mga Kuwento ng Pag-Ibig."

Contented

He seems happy and contented, but he can still write about loneliness, sadness, bitterness and failed relationships. Where does he draw the emotions needed by these songs?

"As a songwriter, I try to feel like the person who is going through these different emotions. I try to create a film in my mind, a movie that has a beautiful but painful love story," Ogie shares. Q& A:

How did you become a better composer, performer and recording artist?

"As a songwriter, I have become patient while waiting for inspiration to flow. When I was still starting, I would get frustrated if nothing would come out in a session. These days, I just wait for the inspiration to come, then I take advantage of it to the fullest," Ogie grins.

More disciplined

"As a recording artist, I am more disciplined about taking care of my voice. I try to have as much rest as I can, so my voice can meet the demands of a tough recording session.

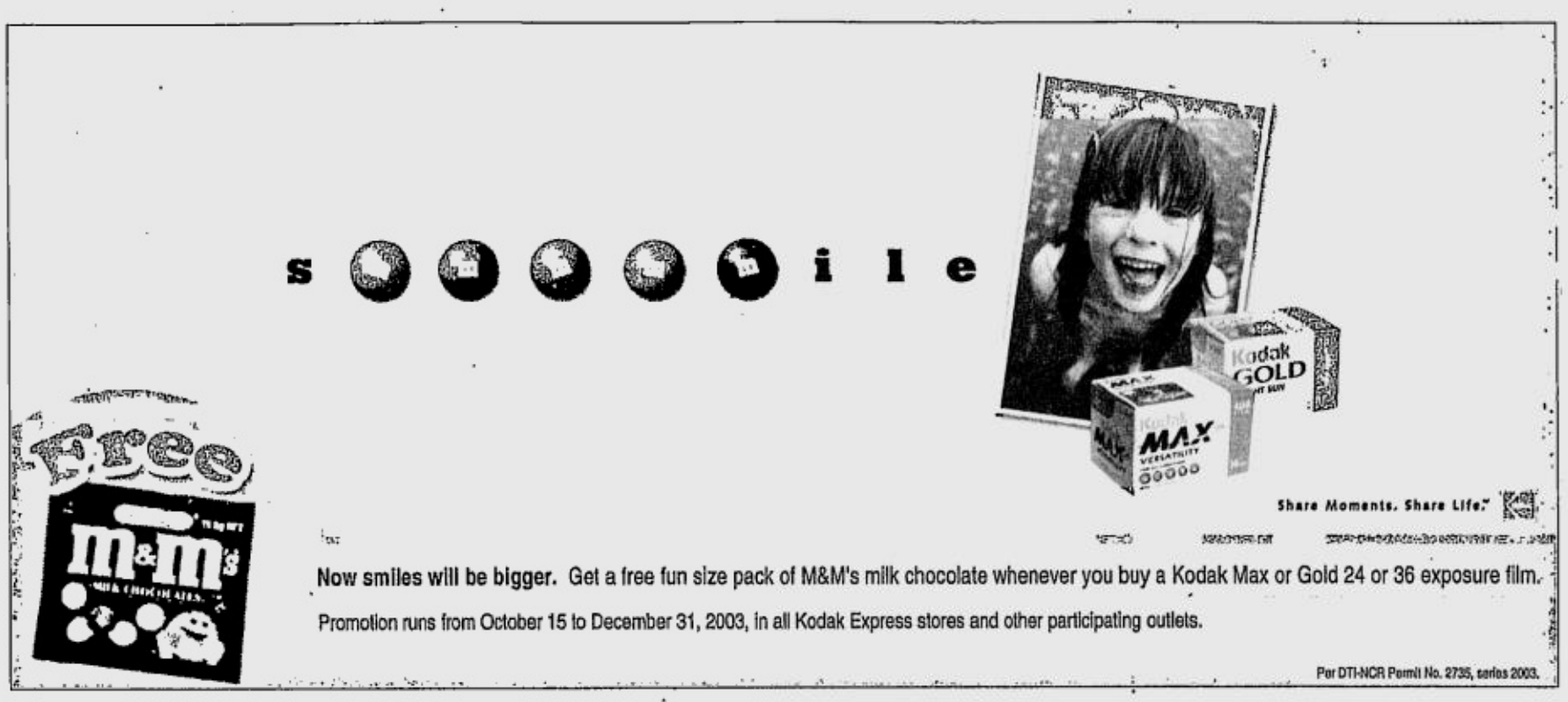
"As a performer, I now relate better to my audience. I think my exposure in sitcoms and gag shows has enhanced my performance, because audiences really love to laugh and listen to good music at the same time."

Do you feel that your songs are an extension of your soul or persona?

"Not all my songs, only the ones that talk about real love and devotion. Everybody knows that I have a good married life, so my songs about longing and failed relationships are more products of empathy than actual experience.

How has married life changed you for

OGIE/ D4



Memorable experiences at EWTN and Heart Beat Records

By Jeanne Young

(Conclusion)

THE NEXT morning, we crowded into the chapel of the Eternal World Catholic Network for their usual 7 a.m. Holy Mass, telecast live. There was something extra special in the air as we honored the birth anniversary of the mother of God, whom the King of Heaven calls "Full of Grace."

Studios

The rest of the day was spent getting acquainted with Susan, Jody, the EWTN staff, crew and the artists who were taping. What a charge! After being in studios half my life, you'd think I'd become blasé, but no, sir! You learn something everytime—if you want to—and I soaked in everyone's thoughts and experiences about faith, love, the ministry—and baked macaroni!

At 21 years, this amazing media apostolate, EWTN, founded by the incomparable and hugely loved Mother Angelica, doesn't mess around with the Faith. They reach 84 million cable subscriber households worldwide, and still growing. What you get is authentic Catholic doctrine! They're more about "teaching rather than entertaining," Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ, told me over a meal at the EWTN dining room during my first visit last May.

Show

On Sept. 9, we rolled tape for my guest singing stint on the "Backstage" show, at 1 p.m. They said I scrubbed up pretty good—what they had seen the day before was me in blue jeans. Today, I combed my hair and showed up in a silk blouse over dark brown jeans. The crew promised to stretch the video to shave off 20 pounds, but of course, they were joking. Hey, (they say "hey" a lot here), what mattered to them went deeper than a facelift.

'No one is more surprised than I am. If I'm deeply grateful, it's because the God we serve is a God of abundant love and mercy'

YOUNG. Newest contract artist of top gospel music company.

MOTHER ANGELICA. Founder of EWTN's amazing media apostolate.

At this point, dear friends, "my" journey to EWTN was hardly a walk in the park. Question: After three months of preparation, what could possibly be the ultimate emergency and humiliation for a performer before showtime? Answer: No teeth.

I kid you not! Without warning, I lost some teeth the week before I took off for Alabama! Horrors! Adding insult to injury, I had to email the vice president of EWTN and "Backstage" executive producer Doug Keck, and senior producer/director Jody, to let them know. I begged them to dispense with any close-ups.

Doug interviewed me May 16, booked me on "Backstage" and said he was looking forward to seeing me perform in person. Well, so much for this American-Filipino star making a delicate impact! Miraculously, my voice was holding up under the strain.

Dentist

After conferring with Mom, who's a show biz veteran if there ever was one, I decided to go "Toothless in Alabama," if nothing could be done on time. But by Divine Providence, the dentist in the Bay area who first looked at me had his day off, and the senior person who happened to be around knew what to do to put me back in business, albeit temporarily. That was close! Mom had to lie down after those three hours of high drama.

"Walk with Jesus, and you will never be alone," wrote Deacon Bill, EWTN chair and CEO in the inside cover of a book by Mother Angelica, "Answers, Not Promises."

And so, Jesus walked with me and held my hand as I sang songs of love and devotion to His mother!

Heart Beat Records CEO Susan Stein was very supportive. Her reputation as a great singer and as a deeply spiritual and sincere person preceded her, and I secretly wondered if I'd cut it. I did: She invited me to join Heart Beat Records!

Irish singer

Her sister is Dana, the renowned Irish singer, now Member of the European Parliament. If, like me, you've been nourished by EWTN over the years, you will know who Dana is.

"Nothing is impossible with God." To do well at EWTN, to become part of the Heart Beat Records family, to have been a presenter and guest singer at the Unity Catholic Music and Video Association Awards last October—!

No one is more surprised than I am. If I'm deeply grateful, it's because the God we serve is a God of abundant love and mercy. And he gave me *you*! Thank you for praying for my family and for me as I start a new life in the land of my birth. Thank you for helping me get here!

Ogie . . .

From page D3

the better?

"Married life has given me real purpose in life. It has made me realize why I am here in this world. I didn't realize that I could love my wife more from the time I got married, but our love for each other keeps growing.

"I think the reason for this is the fact that we respect each other. We appreciate each other's individuality, and yet enjoy our oneness."

What do you still want to achieve?

"I would love to make it abroad. That is one dream I want to fulfill!"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	CHAVIT SINGSON
B	AKO, IKAW, SIYA
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MY FIRST ROMANCE
CINEMA-2	AKO, IKAW O SIYA
CINEMA-3	MATRIX REVOLUTIONS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MR SUAVE
CINEMA-6	WRONG TURN
CINEMA-7	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-8	CHAVIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COLD CREEK MANOR
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	CHAVIT
CINEMA-15	MR SUAVE

LORES

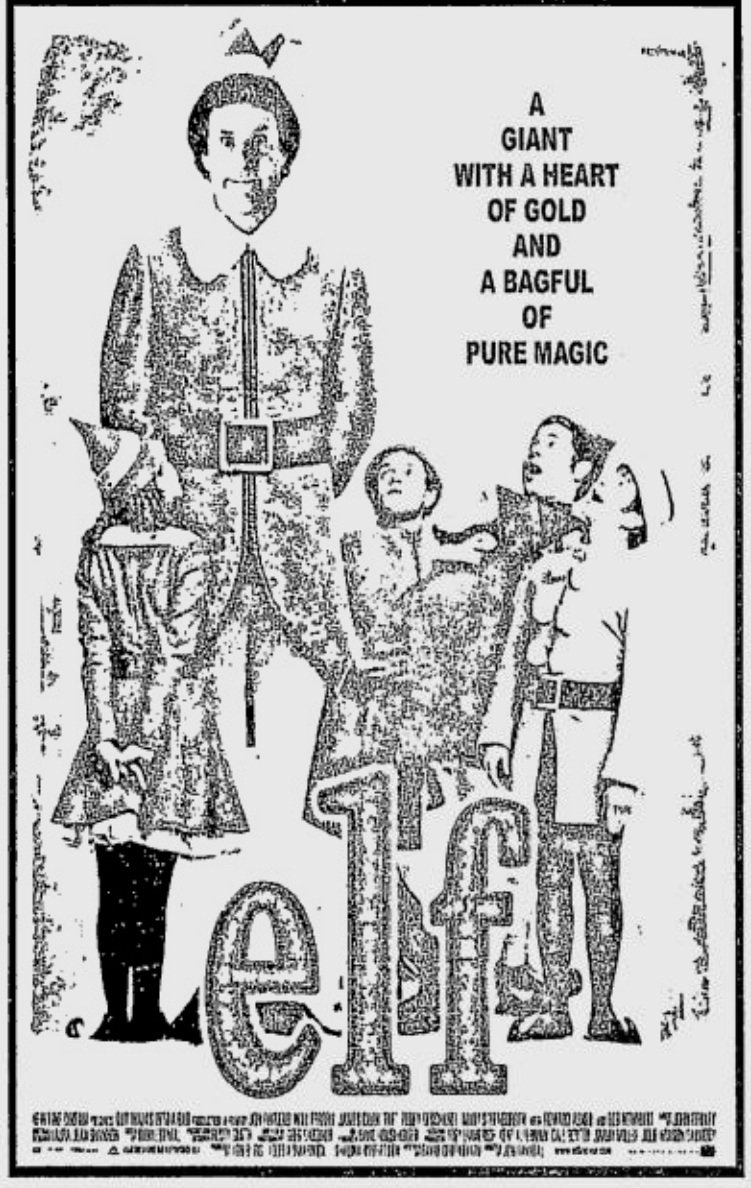
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

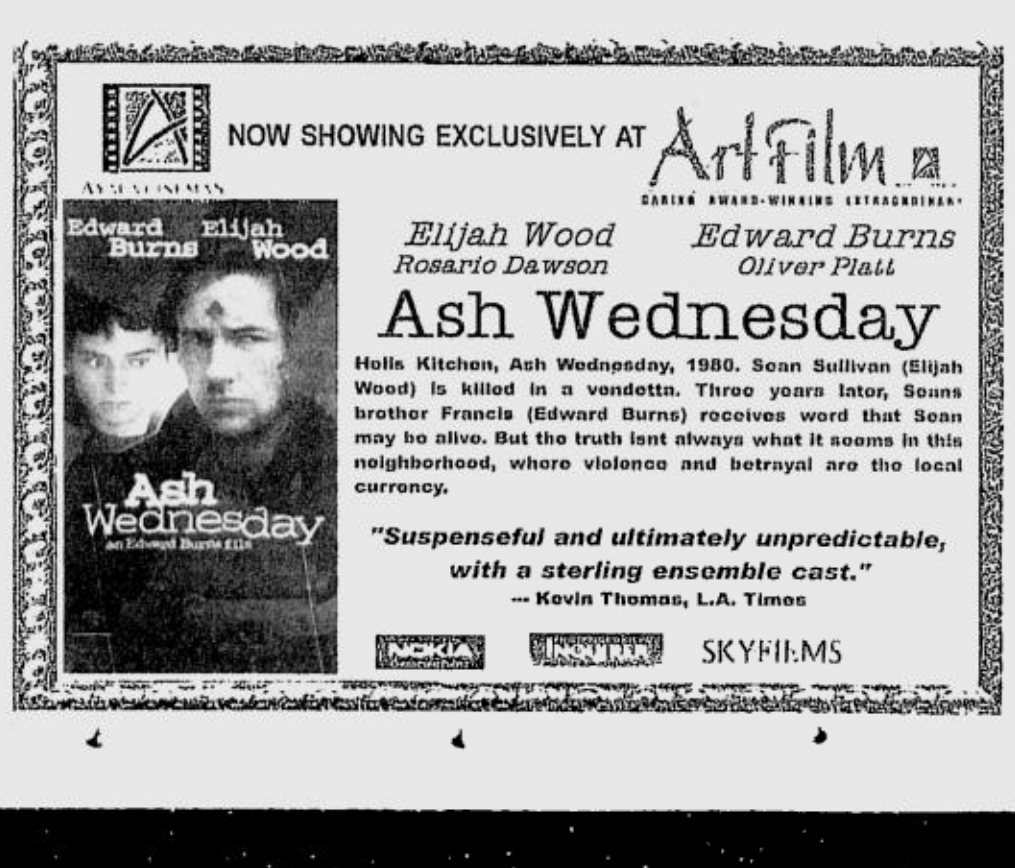
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

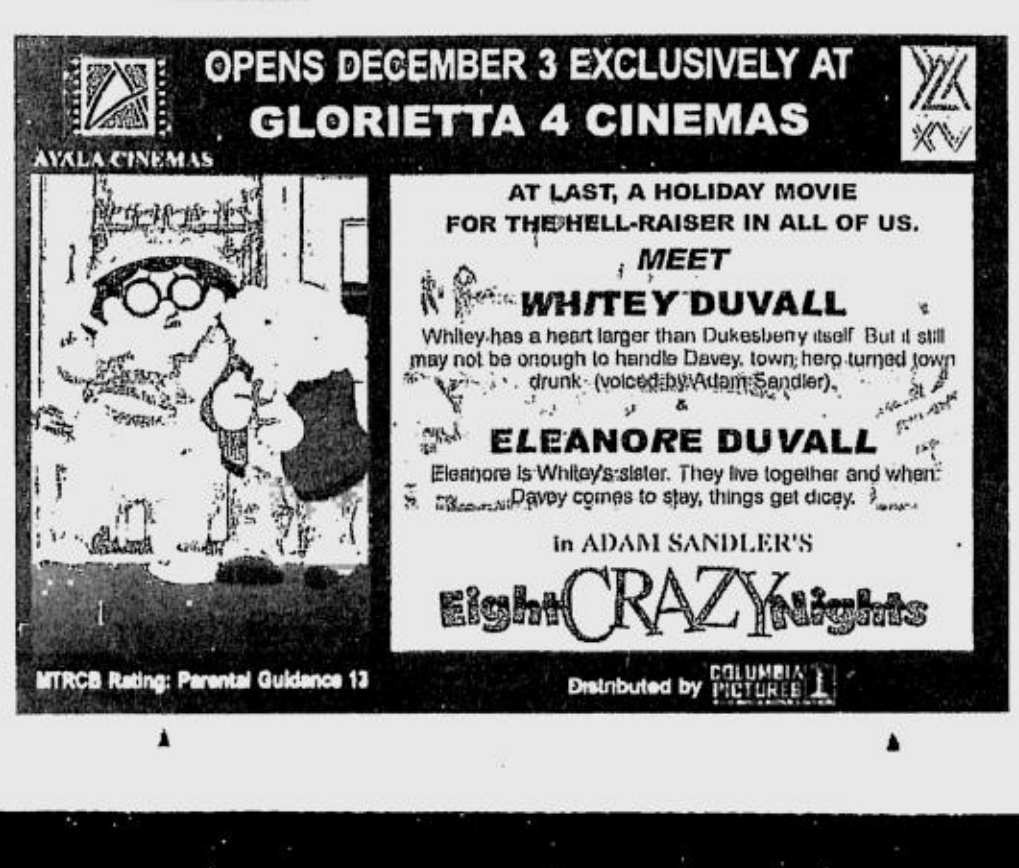
(LAS PIÑAS)	MR SUAVE
CINEMA-1	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-2	MY BOSS'S DAUGHTER
CINEMA-4	AMERICAN PSYCHO

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA







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NATALIA VODIANOVA

Mike Myers is top 'Cat' at US box office

LOS ANGELES—The critics neutered it, but families cuddled up with "The Cat in the Hat," which leaped to the top slot at the weekend box office in North America.

MYERS. Stars in film adaptation of classic children's book.

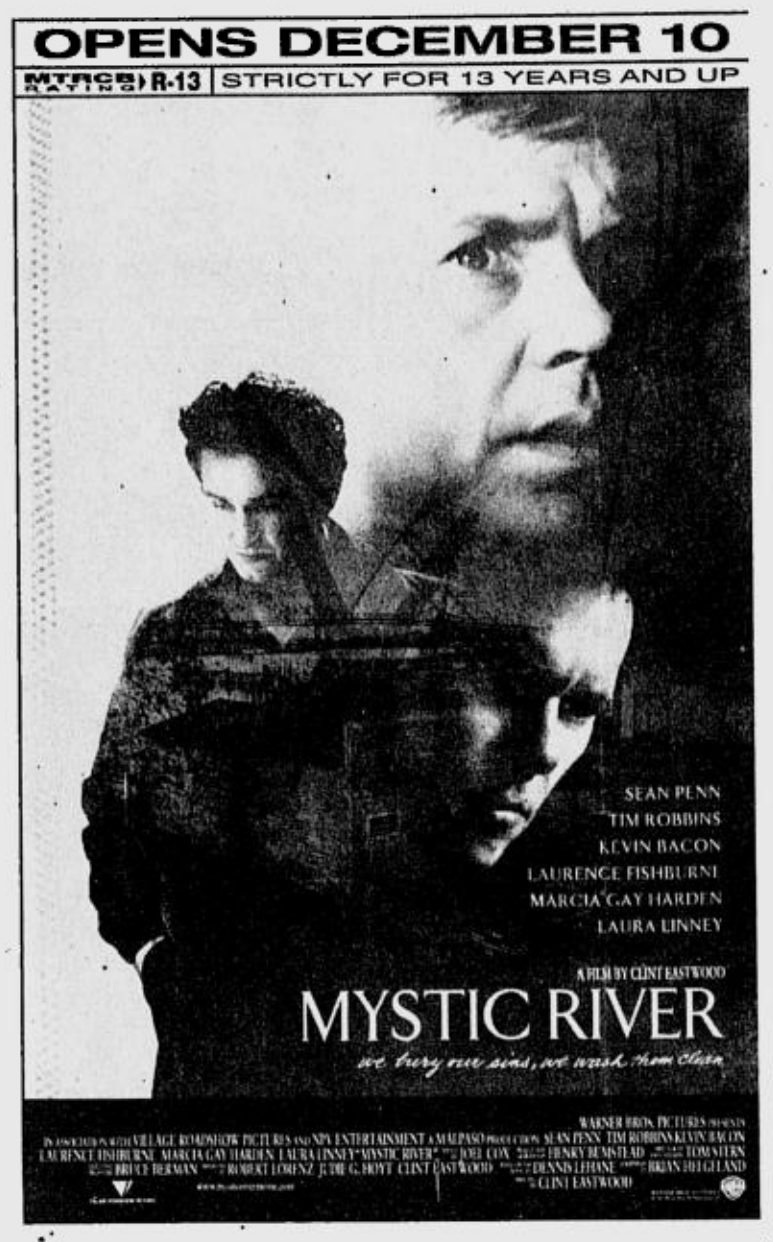
Fey feline

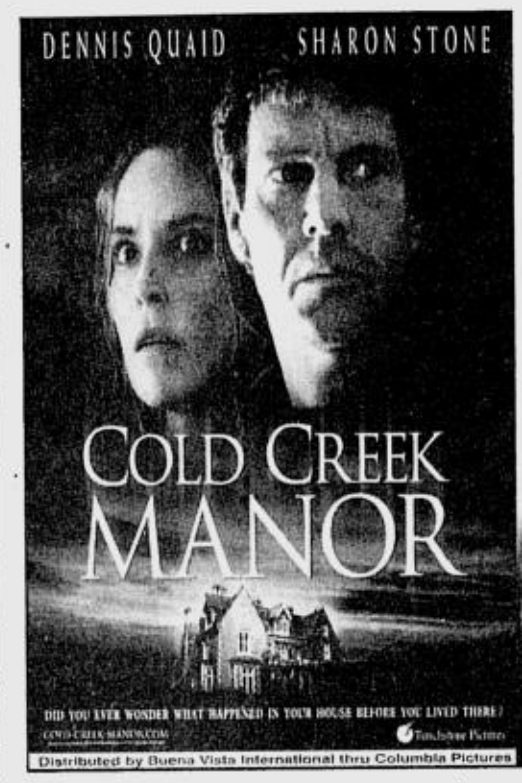
According to studio estimates, the comedy earned $40.1 million in its first three days since opening on Nov. 21. Mike Myers stars as the fey feline in a loose adaptation of Dr. Seuss' classic children's book.

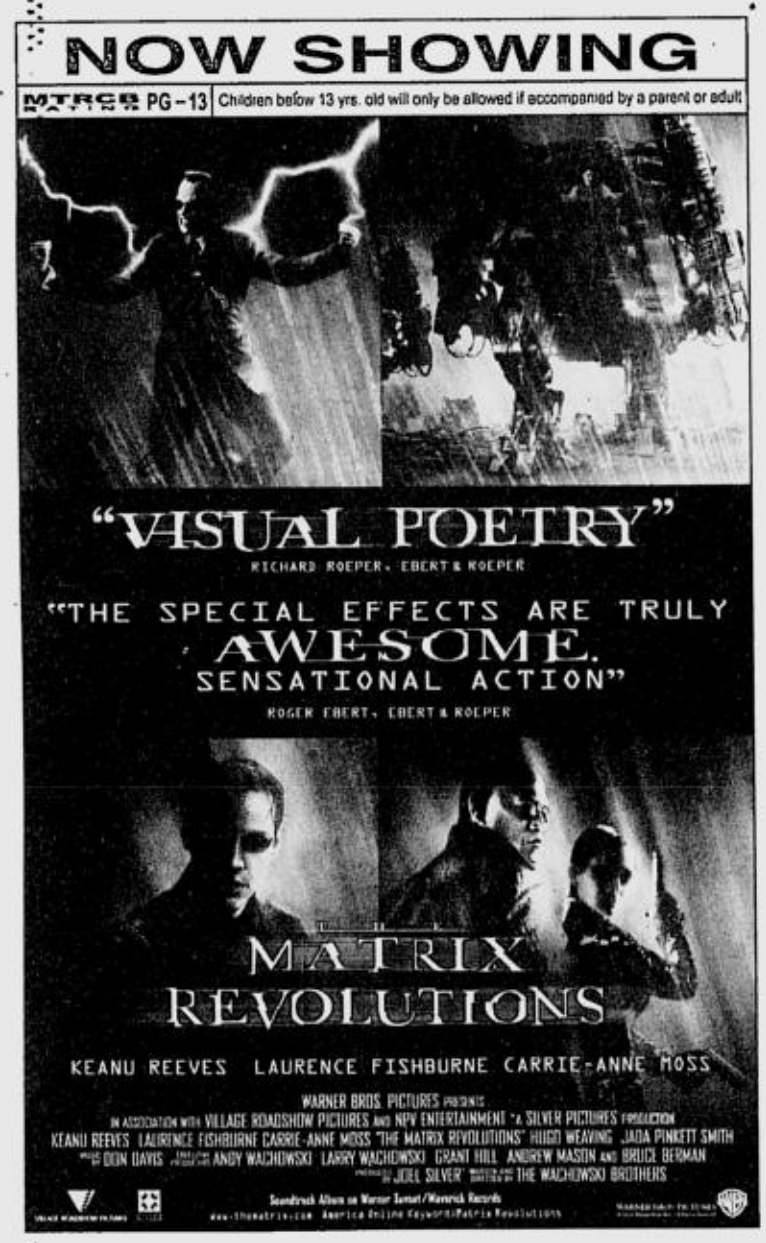
"Gothika," a low-budget thriller starring Halle Berry as a criminal psychologist incarcerated in her own psychiatric ward after being accused of a murder she does not recall committing, opened strongly at No. 2 with $19.6 million.

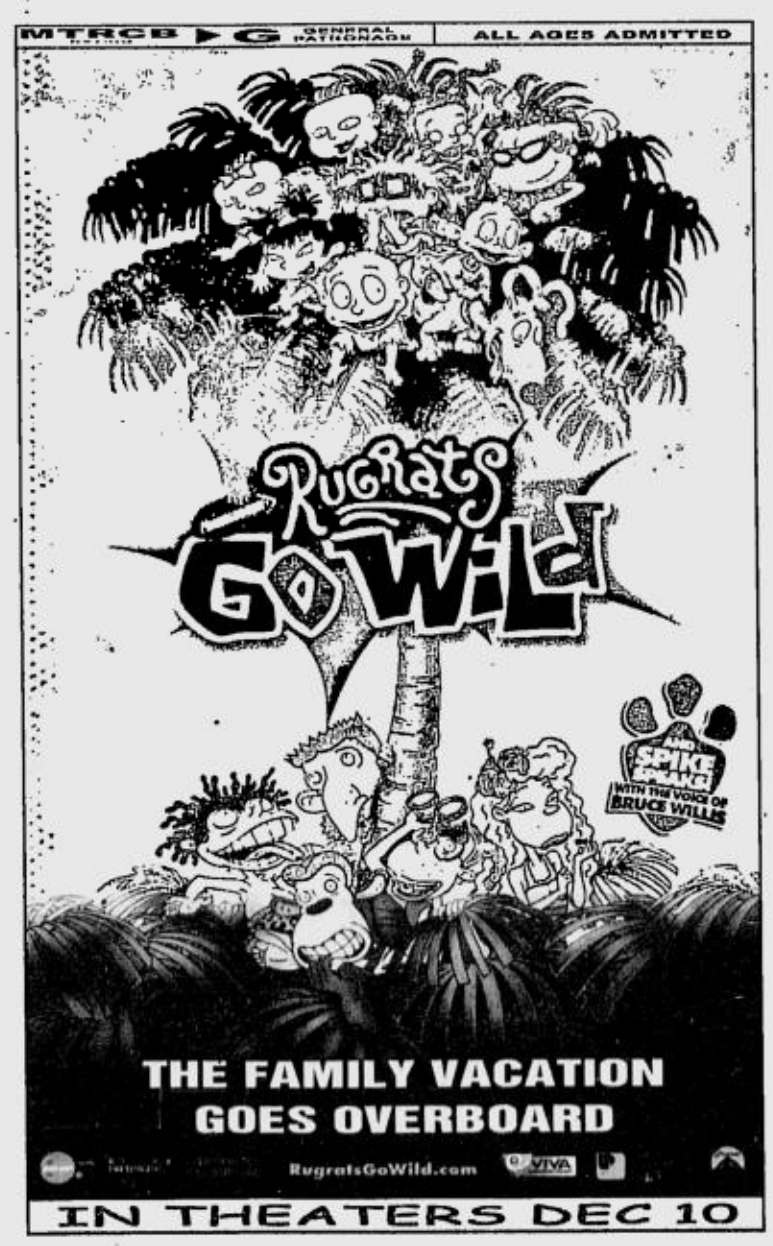
Last weekend's champion, the Christmas comedy, "Elf," fell to No. 3 with $19.1 million in its third weekend. The total for the hit movie, which stars comedian Will Ferrell as one of Santa's helpers, rose to $95.1 million.

MIKE/ D7









What writers say about scriptwriting contests

By Rica Arevalo

THERE are different ways for a screenwriter to enter the film industry. One option is to join scriptwriting competitions. Ned Trespeces wrote "Jologs" and won first place in the 2000 Star Cinema contest. The film was a box-office hit that benefited from the packaging of the studio system—stars, publicity, big budget! He says that it gave him exposure, and he gained confidence.

Projects

But he adds that, sometimes, winning a contest is the "kiss of death." "*Nakakahiya gumawa ng pangit*," says Trespeces. He cites Jun Lana and Adolfo Alix Jr. as writers who have been active in getting projects.

This year's Palanca screenplay winner, Jose Maria "Kookie" Manalo, is based in New York City. He emailed, "I have no producers yet. I'm not really sure how it works, if I should be actively looking for one, or will the contest organizers sell it? I guess it will be a while before I get to go back home."

His work, "Mangha," is about a Filipina who takes her Jewish charge to a faith healer. "*Ako naman kasi, maraming* scripts *na nasulat na sinasali ko sa lahat ng* contest, just to keep me writing," adds Manalo.

Adolfo Alix Jr. was only 18 years old when he wrote "Ada," which won the 1997 FDFPI Scriptwriting Contest. "Ada" was adapted by Bibeth Orteza into Carlos Siguion-Reyna's "Kahapon, May Dalawang Bata."

"It opened doors for me. Ms Armida became interested. But *hindi ito* passport for entering the industry," shares Alix who has an upcoming film, "Homecoming," in the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Alix's scripts are mostly funded by independent producers, and lately he has been teaming up with Gil Portes and Senedy Que. The most successful film of the trio in terms of awards is "Mga Munting Tinig."

In my case, I join scriptwriting contests to offer an alternative to the films being shown in the theaters. The basic rule is not to expect anything. Even if a director loves your material or says he has already found an actor, the question will always be, where is the producer? Most winning scripts are fine works of literature, but they are not "producer-friendly."

Judges

Some producers try to get a copy of your script so they can "evaluate" it. You ask yourself, "What for? It has been evaluated by the judges and it has won a prize." Just the same, give it to them—but, back to the basic rule, don't expect anything.

Rather than complain about your winning scripts gathering dust in your cabinets, the challenge will always be to continue what you have started. Write more relevant and inspiring stories, and maybe in your second life, you will find an enlightened producer!

"MUNTING TINIG." The film about a devoted public school teacher won hearts— and awards.

Musical 'invaders' perpetuate subservience to foreign dictates

By Nestor U. Torre

THE LAST two months of 2003 are turning out to be a sad time for local singers, as a seemingly endless stream of foreign singing stars "invade" our shores with their blockbuster shows.

Shoved out

Some months ago, the stellar, "imported" likes of Mariah Carey, Mandy Moore and Stephen Bishop steered clear of Asia due to the terrorist and SARS scares, but those fears and threats have abated, so they've renewed their "invasion" in full force, and local entertainers have been shoved out of centerstage yet again.

It's that old bugaboo, our colonial mentality flexing its reactionary muscle once more, reminding us that, while we may have officially asserted our independence in 1946, our actual subservience to foreign pop culture persists to this day.

Truth to tell, some Filipino singers are every bit as talented as most foreign singing stars. But local audiences prefer the "imports" to them because our colonizers have programmed us to think that "foreign" is intrinsically better than "local."

Colonial past

What will it take for us to finally outgrow this severely limiting "inheritance" from our colonial past? First, we must acknowledge that it exists, and that it's a big problem.

This is itself a problem, because many people here don't even know that their outlook, world view and estimation of themselves in relation to their foreign counterparts continue to be circumscribed by a national subservience to foreign standards of excellence and desirability.

They think it's "cool" to prefer foreign brands, trends and luminaries to the local variety simply because they're "imported."

Sad to say, this preference for imported products is shared by some Filipino entertainers themselves. Yes, the victims don't even know they're being victimized, and tacitly approve their own victimization!

This includes those local singers who have agreed to do the front act for the foreign singing stars scheduled to perform here in the next two months.

We trust that they will soon realize that they can't keep on playing second fiddle or second banana to foreign entertainers, but must assert their preeminent position in their own land.

Plus factors

Of course, there are plus factors to being able to enjoy the live concerts of outstanding singers from abroad: we can learn from their sterling performances, keep on top of international musical trends and production values, see how world-class entertainers have to work so hard to please their audiences, etc.

We submit, however, that these positive outcomes can't substantially make up for the colonial subservience that this latest spate of imported shows perpetuates. it also saps a lot of the money that would otherwise have gone to the production of local shows, or to the purchase of tickets to concerts showcasing our own talents.

Shows topbilling foreign singing stars cost an arm and a leg to bankroll, so little money is left for local concerts, and our own singers are left begging in their own land. This is a sad and ironic situation that can't be allowed to fester. Enough!

Mike Myers is top 'Cat' . . .

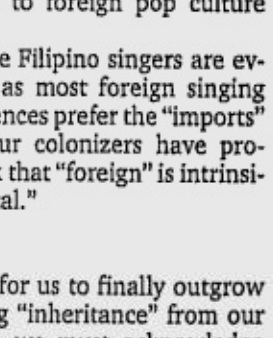
From page D6

"The Cat in the Hat" was released in North America by Universal Pictures.

"Gothika" was released by Warner Bros. Pictures, and "Elf" by New Line Cinema.

$129 million

Overall receipts fell for the second weekend in a row compared with last year, according to tracking firm Exhibitor Relations. The top 12 films earned $129 million, down 11 percent from last year, when the James Bond thriller, "Die Another Day," also starring Berry, was the top film.



BERRY. "Gothika" proves she can open a movie.

The $40.1 million opening for "The Cat in the Hat" pales against the $55.1 million bow for the last Dr. Seuss movie, 2000's "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," which starred Jim Carrey. Universal said the performance was on target, with the new film attracting more tykes on discounted tickets.

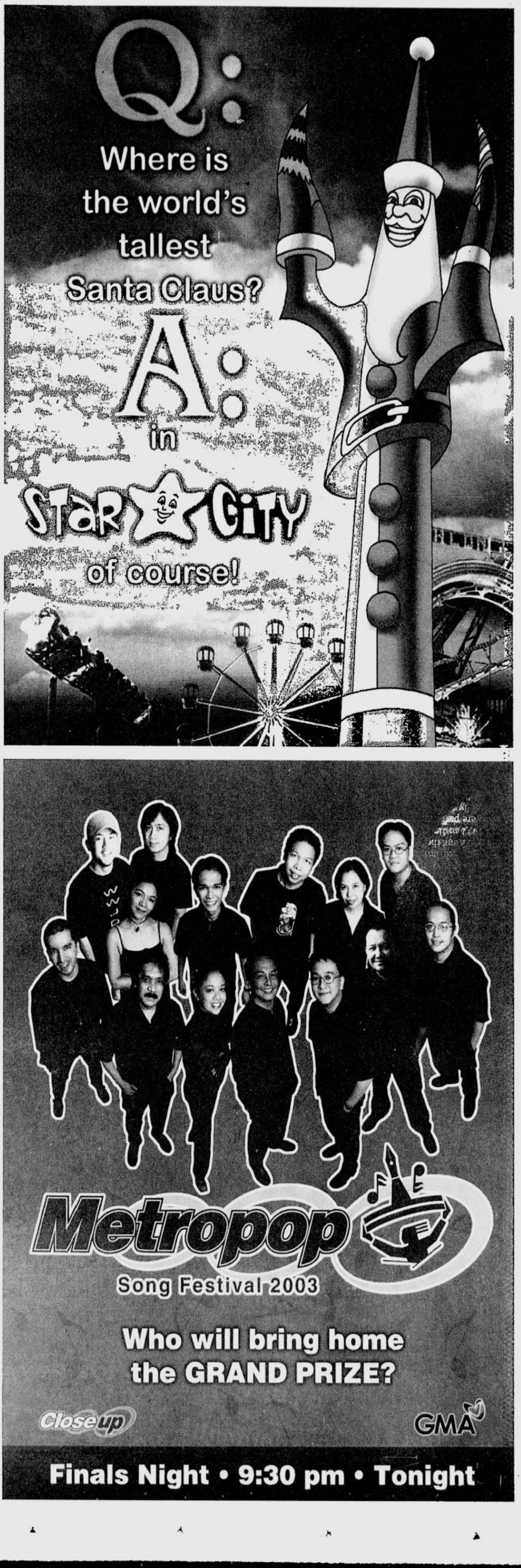
Critics were appalled by the film, which marks the feature directing debut of veteran production designer Bo Welch. Myers' Cat wreaks havoc at the house of two bored youngsters in a candy-colored town.

Abomination

Entertainment Weekly dubbed it "the ultimate bad day at Disney World," while the Wall Street Journal called it an "abomination, impure and simple." Countered Nikki Rocco, president of distribution at Universal: "Do you know anyone under 12 who reads reviews?"

The critics were not exactly thrilled by "Gothika," which was budgeted at under $40 million. But its $19.6 million opening proves Berry's ability to open a movie, and bodes well for her next appearance, in Warner Bros' July 2004 release, "Catwoman," said Dan Fellman, the studio's president of domestic theatrical distribution.

Reuters



'Magnificat' and 'Magsimula Ka' restaged as CCP fundraisers

By Nestor U. Torre

RYAN Cayabyab's "Magnificat" and Gines Tan's "Magsimula Ka," two of Philippine theater's most popular and critically-acclaimed original Filipino musicals, will be mounted anew and performed in an Outreach tour to raise funds for the important cultural projects of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

CAYABYAB'S "Magnificat," the country's longest-running religious musical.

LITTLE Jesus listens to Joseph.

Talent and enthusiasm

Auditions for new cast members for the new staging of "Magsimula Ka" were held last Tuesday at the CCP's Tanghalang Huseng Batute, and audition masters Andy Bais and Rito Asilo were heartened by the talent and enthusiasm of the young singers, dancers and actors who went through the long process of the initial auditions, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Today and next Tuesday, auditionees will be given more intensive exercises and challenges designed to further test and hone their abilities, so potential lead players will be given opportunities to stand out.

"Magsimula Ka" will begin its Metro Manila and national Outreach tours early next year. The musical has become popular with audiences because of its entertaining and creative combination of songs, dances, drama and comedy, and its affecting story of young college graduates who pursue their dreams despite many setbacks.

It has also helped launch the flourishing entertainment and musical-theater careers of exceptional talents like Robert Seña, Isay Alvarez, Jograd dela Torre and Gigi Posadas.

New crop of singers

The musical's reputation for training and showcasing young talents has attracted a new crop of singers, actors and dancers to make their bid to be a part of the new production of "Magsimula Ka."

They are also strongly motivated to support the Outreach show's intention of raising funds for the CCP's key cultural programs, to help keep the arts flourishing and dynamic in the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Ryan Cayabyab's acclaimed religious musical, "Magnificat," is about the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary within the context of her son Jesus Christ's mission to save mankind.

It will go on Outreach tour even earlier, from Dec. 9 to 22, and will enthrall and move audiences everywhere with its beautiful music, intense performances, and gifted cast of singers and actors.

Popular choice

The religious production has been a popular choice of parishes and schools, which use its performances as opportunities to raise funds for their respective projects. This time, the production will also raise funds for the CCP.

Schools, parishes, organizations and other groups interested in having "Magnificat" performed in their locality form Dec. 9 and 22, and "Magsimula Ka" starting early next year, are invited to get in touch with CCP Outreach OIC Sonny Cristobal at 833-0267 and 832-3674.

Not only will they have a chance to enjoy superlative productions that have been acclaimed by reviewers and audiences alike, they can also help raise funds for the CCP, and for their own projects.

ISAY Alvarez (left) and Robert Seña, outstanding talents whose stellar careers were boosted early on by "Magsimula Ka," Gines Tan's pioneering stage musical.

How aspiring artists can lead creative lives

By Ronald G. Mangubat

IN "Creating a Life Worth Living" (Harper Collins Books, 1997, 309 pp) Carol Lloyd offers the basic tools to build a private "laboratory" in which anyone can chart his artistic career and harness his creative energies.

The practical self-help book offers writing exercises, artistic assignments and experiments with new habits and thought games that help generate map out the path to an ideal creative life.

Brilliance

While practically every activity can benefit from the brilliance and thrill of unleashed creativity, Lloyd says there are professions that cannot survive without it—scientific inventions, journalism, events planning, teaching, scholarship, the electronic media, organizational development, etc.

The book's 12 chapters overflow with tips on how to apply the artistic process to build a career, but avoid specific lifestyle prescriptions because, as the author claims, "People who want to live a creative life must create their lives entirely their own way. They can't depend on anybody to tell them how."

Instead, she suggests that aspiring artists develop the daily habit of taking 15 minutes off for emptying and quieting the mind.

Systems

The book also teaches how to invent the systems of selfhood in order to chart people's creative directions. In the chapter, "Kaleidoscope of Creativity: Understanding your Artistic Profile," Lloyd advises aspiring artists to ask themselves: What is it that I am yearning for?

This, she believes, is the key to knowing one's creative desires and inclinations.

An important insight she shares with her readers is to remember that "money itself is not the thing that corrupts us. Rather, it is the things we exchange for it that finally distort our sense of dignity."

To us, the most interesting part of the book is Lloyd's long interviews with actors, cinematographers, cartoonists, writers and composers regarding their respective artistic processes, and their advice to aspiring artists.

According to Lloyd, creation is not an orderly, coherent process, but a sticky, painful and beautiful mess. This is why she further advises struggling artists to relish their confusion.

Friendly tips

Up to the last page, the author keeps on giving friendly tips: do not get distracted by the allure of easy fame; sleep in a hammock; be calm; keep your work alive regardless of moods or misfortunes; and never lose your burning curiosity!

SATURDAY Special

Julius and Tintin to wed on Dec. 8

By Nestor U. Torre

BABAO AND BERSOLA. He formally proposed to her on Sharon's show.

TEN years ago, Tintin Bersola and Julius Babao were co-workers at ABS-CBN. This Dec. 8, they will be united in holy matrimony in afternoon rites at the San Antonio de Padua Church in Antipolo City.

Unique love story

Theirs is a unique love story, with a courtship sometimes played out in full view of thousands upon thousands of televiewers. In fact, Julius "formally" proposed to Tintin when they both guested on Sharon Cuneta's TV show!

Tintin recalls that awesomely "publicly romantic" moment: "When Julius knelt before me and gave me the ring, my knees weakened, and I almost lost my balance! *Napaluhod din ako!* I was ecstatic—*sobrang* happy that I didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

'Julius would tell me later that I must have whispered 'I love you' to him more than 20 times when we were dancing. At least, it was enough to compensate for my being speechless and spaced out when he asked, 'Will you marry me?'"

Theirs was a romance made in TV heaven, but it had its share of rough spots before they separately realized that they were truly meant for each other. It's Julius' turn to provide the personal narrative:

"We got to know each other when I started

JULIUS/ E3

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Keyword: **outfmylyf**

The Chillout Project
House Sessions
Various Artists
A Different Feeling
by Avalanches
Keyword: **diffeeling**

Let It Be... Naked
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2 **The Chillout Project Hose Sessions**
Various Artists
keyword: *diffeeling*
keyword: *fade*
3 **As Time Goes By... The Great American Songbook Vol. II**
Rod Stewart
keyword: *therewasu*
keyword: *astimegoes*
4 **Coverage**
Mandy Moore
keyword: *stillbefrens*
keyword: *breakingin2*
keyword: *moonshadow*
keyword: *monalisas*
5 **A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic 2**
Various Artists
keyword: *younlboth*
6 **Tunog Acoustic**
Various Artists
7 **Michael Bublé**
Michael Bublé
8 **In The Zone**
Britney Spears
keyword: *againstdmusic*
9 **Long Ago Tomorrow**
Siobhan Pettit
10 **Akustik Natin**
Various Artists
keyword: *kanlungan*
11 **The Movie Album**
Barbra Streisand
12 **Master Of Chant Chapter IV**
Gregorian
13 **Piano Player**
Maksim
14 **Bigotilyo**
Parokya Ni Edgar
15 **Let It Be... Naked**
The Beatles
keyword: *getback*
16 **Totally Bublé**
Michael Bublé
17 **Life For Rent**
Dido
18 **It Had To Be You... The Great American Songbook**
Rod Stewart
19 **Nyoy Volante with Mannos**
Nyoy Volante
20 **New York City**
The Peter Malick Group featuring Norah Jones
21 **Elephunk New Version**
Black Eyed Peas
22 **A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic**
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Mariah Carey
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Paolo Santos

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6 LOONEY TUNES - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
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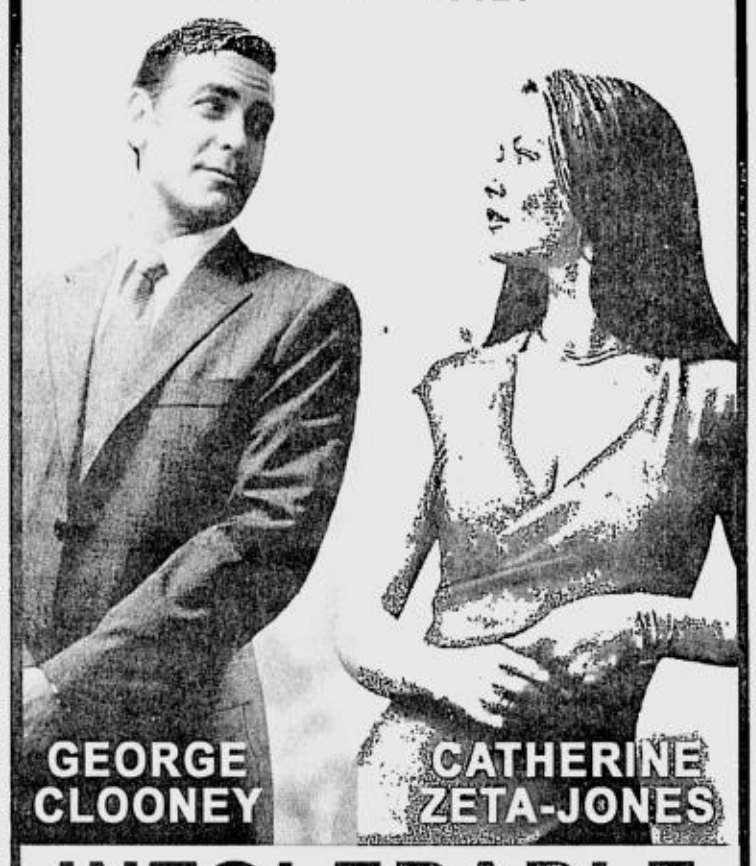

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E-H.O.P.E. to spread cheer during Christmas season—and after

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

OUR "inspiring" musical-comedy group, E-H.O.P.E. (Entertainers for Hospitals, Orphanages, Offices, Prisons, Educational Institutions and Etc.) will be performing this Christmas season for all groups interested in uplifting people's feelings and attitudes, to counteract the prevalent "gloom and doom" mood resulting from the many problems the country has been facing.

Our group's performers, Andy Bais, Rito Asilo, Joel Villaflor, Shiela Asuncion, Ray Manalo and Ana Feleo, are among the best musical-theater talents in the country, and also have the biggest hearts. As the audience at their first show at Medical City can attest, their one-hour musical-comedy show is great at lifting spirits and putting a smile on the saddest faces.

If your group would like E-H.O.P.E. to help make your members or wards happier this season, all you have to do is call Andy at 713-9323 or 0919-2065425. We will be only too happy to perform for you and help make this world a better place with the entertaining, uplifting and psychologically healing magic of music and comedy, served up with a whole lot of love and good cheer for the Yuletide season—and even after!

Asia Media Festival 2003

The Asia Media Festival 2003 will be held in Singapore from Dec. 1 to 7. The annual industry fiesta hosted by the Media Development Authority aims to develop Singapore into a vibrant global media city.

More content and activities have been added to the festival's main events, the Asia Television Forum, Asia Film Market and Conference, and Asia Animation. The new highlights are a Policy Forum, participation by the Tokyo Foundation, and a new conference track on Digital Cinema.

Dynamic media personalities will share their thoughts on topics like "Promises and Pitfalls of Digital Cinema," "New Delivery Streams Through Convergence," "The Growth and Evolution of Asian Animation" and "Moving Into New Markets."

The festival also includes the ATF and Animation Superpitches contest at Rasa Sentosa Resort on Dec. 2 and 4. Producers will pitch their best concepts to commissioning editors and broadcasters from around the region.

There will be a Conference on Animé and Manga, featuring the leading animation companies in Japan. A public symposium on Animé and Manga will also be held.

The Policy Forum public discussions will tackle new digital technologies and the blurring of the boundaries between broadcasting and telecommunications.

The Kodak Screenings will showcase the works of nine budding Asia-Pacific filmmakers. Selected films from Japan, Korea, India, Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines and Singapore will be screened.

The Asian Television Awards will give out 40 trophies. New categories include Best Art Direction, Best Business News Program, and Best Talk Show.

CERRUDO. Busy performing in special shows all over the country.

FELEO. Impressive talent with a big heart.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Nov. 29 at 1 p.m., "Glory." 5 p.m., "Devil in A Blue Dress." 11:05 p.m., "The Majestic." Nov. 30 at 4:30 p.m., "The Tailor of Panama." 1:40 a.m., "The Masque of the Red Death."

Dec. 1 at 1 p.m., "Almost Famous." 3 a.m., "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." Dec. 2 at 9 p.m., "Vanilla Sky." 2:30 a.m., "Children of A Lesser God." Dec. 3 at 11:15 a.m., "Stealing Beauty." 6:45 p.m., "Forrest Gump." Dec. 4 at 9 p.m., "I Am Sam." Dec. 5 at 9 p.m., "Black Hawk Down."

On Cinemax, Nov. 29 at 6:45 p.m., "Born on the Fourth of July." Nov. 30 at 1:45 p.m., "Hitler: The Rise of Evil, Parts 1 and 2."

Dec. 1 at 6:30 a.m., "When Worlds Collide." 2 a.m., "From Here to Eternity." Dec. 2 at 6 p.m., "The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas." Dec. 3 at 9:15 a.m., "This Property Is Condemned." Dec. 4 at 7:15 p.m., "Regarding Henry." Dec. 5 at 3:45 a.m., "The Bridges at Toko-Ri."

Bimbo Cerrudo

Aside from being a member of the popular AngFourgettables and performing in stage plays and musicals, Bimbo Cerrudo is kept busy by special shows all over the country.

His most recent solo gig was last Nov. 25 at Club "C" in Angeles City, Pampanga. Together with the Onda Latina Band, the handsome balladeer performed Top 40s hits, well-loved standards and OPM songs.

Indian music

Every Saturday, the Prince of Jaipur Restaurant at Fort Bonifacio delights its guests with traditional Indian music performed at 7 p.m.

The restaurant is open daily for lunch and dinner. Call 884-1692.

'Rugrats Go Wild!'

The premiere of Nickelodeon's "Rugrats Go Wild!" will be held at 4 p.m. on Nov. 29 at SM Megamall.

The fun-filled and heartwarming adventure features the first meeting of Nickelodeon's most popular characters, the Rugrats and The Wild Thornberries.,

Julius and Tintin to wed on Dec. 8

From page E1

substituting for Noli de Castro on 'TV Patrol.' Then, Tintin was tapped to host 'Alas Singko y Medya' with me, and we found ourselves spending a lot of time together. But we didn't want our friends and officemates to know about our relationship.

Another chance

"There came a point when we had to choose to stay together or to end it. Our relationship was already affecting our work! Several times, we attempted to end our relationship, but we always ended up holding on to it, giving it 'another chance.'

"But the true test of our relationship was when I went to the States. I told her, *"Pag sumunod ka sa* New York, that can only mean *na tayo na.'* I was already in New York when I got a call from her from the airport. My heart jumped when I saw her there. It was the best four days of my life. Tintin put it perfectly: a defining moment!"

For our part, we got to know Julius and Tintin when we went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in the year 2000. We were together for more than 10 days, and we were touched to see how committed they were to each other, how they shared the same interests—travel, art, reading, *coffee*!—and, best of all, a deep spirituality that expressed itself not so much in what they said, but in the gentle, thoughtful way they cared for each other.

Husband and wife

Media marriages have a sad habit of not lasting all that long, but we're pretty sure this one will, because it's being built on a love that's been tested and found genuine.

So, we'll be there on Dec. 8, when our loving friends become husband and wife, their union inspiring both loved ones and strangers alike with its consoling evidence that, in a world often seemingly gone totally wrong, some things can go—so beautifully right!

Film music plays vital role in creating ambiance

By Behn Cervantes

WHAT would films be without music? Rather dull! I remember seeing a documentary on the 1981 post-production process of "Chariots of Fire" before the very popular Vangelis score was made an integral part of that Academy Award-winning film. Without the music, it was nothing more than a lot of sweaty guys jogging.

Mood

Film music captures the theme, sets the mood, adds ambiance, and provides romance, suspense, thrills and continuity.

Composers for cinema have therefore played a vital role in the success of many films.

Imagine "Gone With The Wind" without the Victor Young score, whose most memorable portion is known as "Tara's Theme"? When the music creeps in, the beauty and gentility of the past is brought back, and it hints at the excesses the rich wallowed in years before the agricultural South split from the North.

The romantic moments shared by Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh were further highlighted by the movie's soaring theme, its rhythm alternating between drama and the poignant scenes that characterized that film classic.

To this day, films like "Intermezzo" starring Ingrid Bergman, are best remembered for their distinctive music. In Bergman's Hollywood debut, suave British actor Leslie Howard portrayed the troubled violin virtuoso who interpreted musical pieces that were of the classical genre.

Old, classy sound

Hollywood producers hired European composers to provide their films with the old, classy sound and feel. In fact, many reputable European composers, as well as immigrant performers, interpreted their creations on the screen.

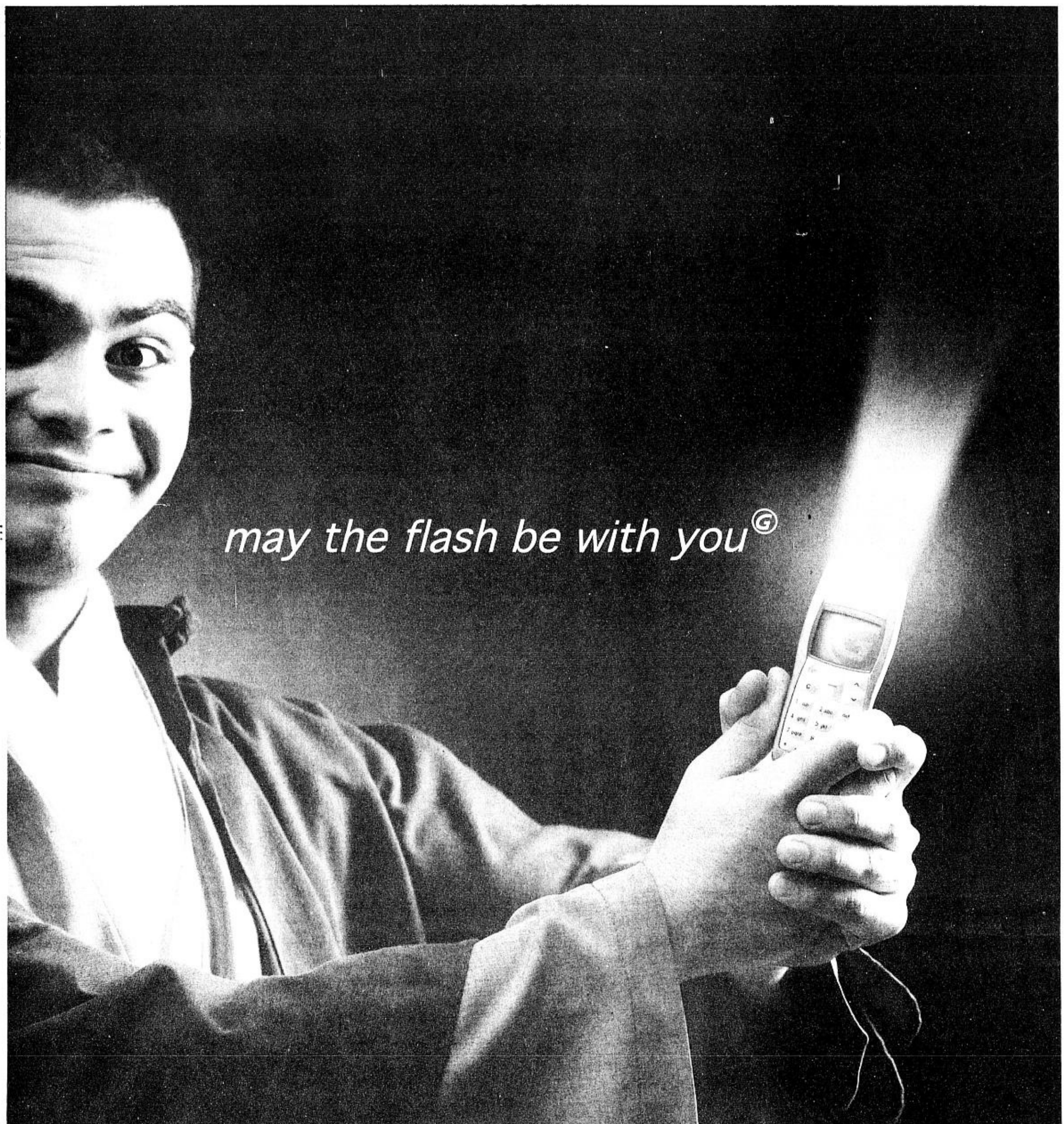
Standout musical scoring in European films is often attributed to Ennio Morricone, whose versatility is widely acknowledged, having composed contrasting scores for Spaghetti westerns as well as the enigmatic theme of the Cannes Award-winning film, "Cinema Paradiso."

That theme was recently interpreted by the sensational new baritone Josh Groban as "Se."

Standout composer

A standout composer for Hollywood films in the '50s and '60s was Dmitri Tiomkin ("The High and Mighty"), who won Academy Awards for his scores. The former pianist was also responsible for many memorable film scores, including "A Bullet Is Waiting" and "Hajji Baba," starring John Derek and the beautiful Elaine Stewart. The theme song was popularized by the late Nat "King" Cole.

Music continues to play a vital role in films, since our enjoyment of a movie is both visual and aural. The aural virtues enrich the images captured by the camera, and help us enter a different world when words fail. Music provides the foundation for our imagination to take flight in the big wonderful world of cinema!



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SATURDAY Special

George Clooney keeps his feet on the ground

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

***FROM Leila Sta. Cruz:* "Why hasn't George Clooney ever married? Please write about him."**

George Clooney may be one of Hollywood's most eligible bachelors but, contrary to popular belief, the 42-year-old heartthrob was married once—to Martin Balsam's daughter, Talia, when he was 28. The union lasted for only three years.

$10,000 bet

He once said he would never marry again, nor have any children. But Michelle Pfeiffer ("One Fine Day") and Nicole Kidman ("The Peacemaker") had bet $10,000 each that he'd get hitched and be a father before he turned 40.

Clooney said Kidman remembered the bet when he turned 41. In an interview with the New York Times last year, he shared, "Nicole sent me a check for $10,000. I mailed it back and wrote, 'Double or nothing for another 10 years.'"

He explained his fear of commitment in an interview with the BBC: "I was married once, and I wasn't very good at it. I love kids, and I'm a good uncle. But I believe, if you're going to be a parent, there has to be something in you that says, 'I have to have children.' I don't hear that voice in me. You can't be half-assed about it."

Sleeping in a closet

At 21, he moved to LA and tried a whole year to get a role while practically sleeping in a friend's closet. His first movie, which also featured the then unknown Charlie Sheen, has stayed unreleased.

Clooney's first TV series, a medical comedy called "ER," bombed in 1984. It took 10 years before he landed another medical series, also called "ER," this time a brilliant drama conceptualized by Michael Crichton.

If he's scared of getting married, he's more terrified of earthquakes. After one earthquake in San Francisco, he recounted: "I came running out of the house naked with my pig, Max. And my friend, Ben, who was in the guesthouse, came running out naked with a gun, because he thought someone was breaking in. My biggest fear was that we would end up getting killed and they would find two naked men, a pig and a gun."

A pig? Yes, he is very close to his Vietnamese pet. He said: "I've had my potbellied pig, Max, for almost 14 years—my longest relationship to date!"

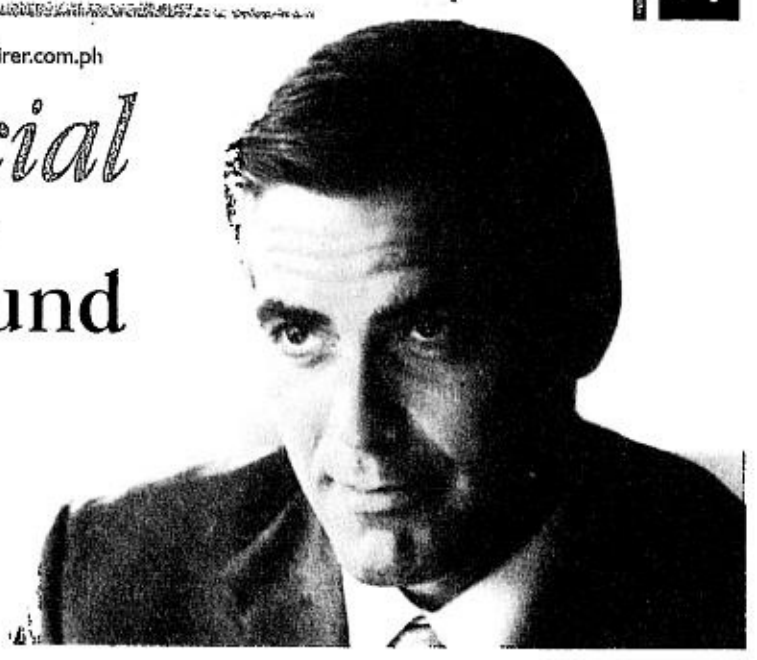
GQ calls him "the most famous single man, and the most desired." He was named "Sexiest man alive" by People in 1997, and won a Golden Globe Best Actor nod for the Coens' "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" (2000). For the movie, he practiced singing for three weeks, but in the end, his singing voice was dubbed. Obviously, he was no Ewan McGregor.

His famed "Roman" haircut was actually an accident. While filming "From Dusk Till Dawn," he wanted to make his character look crazy with a chopped-off hairstyle. But the haircut became popular.

Despite his wealth and popularity, Clooney keeps his feet on the ground. He is so well-loved by his peers that he got Julia Roberts, Matt Damon and Brad Pitt to take huge percentage cuts off their astronomical fees to star with him in Steven Soderberg's successful "Ocean's 11."

Out of frustration

He got into a fistfight with "Three Kings" director David O. Russell on the set. Russell had yelled and derided some extras out of frustration, and Clooney didn't appreciate it. George will be seen in Joel Coen's "Intolerable Cruelty" (with Catherine Zeta-Jones) next week.



CLOONEY. Got into a fistfight with a director who derided some extras on the set.

He is also known for his self-deprecating humor. When he was rumored to have caused the split-up of Julia Roberts and Benjamin Bratt, he said: "No, I didn't have time for that—I was too busy breaking up Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman's marriage."

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Religious TV show is a hit in Pampanga

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Nov. 24, we went to San Fernando, Pampanga, to observe the taping of an episode of "Men in White," a religious talk show that is hosted by three with-it priests, directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya, and telecast by community cable station Infomax 8, throughout the province of Pampanga.

Acclaimed filmmaker

What is an acclaimed filmmaker like Marilou doing, directing a community TV show with a relatively limited telecasting reach? Others are surprised, but Marilou's close friends aren't, because they know that she is deeply spiritual, has focused her energies on peacemaking, and is concerned about developing the media outside of "imperial" Manila.

The heartening thing is, "Men in White," which is now on its second season, has become the most popular local production on the Infomax 8 cable channel.

Very impressive

This is a very impressive development, because religious programs usually aren't associated with popularity and top ratings. And yet, "Men in White" has proven that, with excellent hosts like its Frs. Ambo David, Raul delos Santos and Ed de Leon, Marilou's astute direction and the unstinting support of Infomax's staffers, a religious show can provide exciting TV fare for a community's avid viewers.

Indeed, the program has become so popular that, aside from its usual telecasting schedule (9 p.m. Wednesdays), it is now being replayed twice daily, and is also being shown on other cable channels outside of Pampanga. In addition, selected episodes of "Men in White" are being sold as video cassettes for Filipinos abroad.

REV. FRS. De leon (left), David (center) and Delos Santos host the popular gospel-based program, "Men in White."

What makes the show such a hit? We viewed a taped episode and watched the taping of another show, and arrived at these inputs:

The show is gospel-based, so viewers like watching it because it gives them a preview of the gospel that will be read during the week's Sunday mass. Also, the three hosts' incisive and interesting discussion of the week's gospel leads to insights that can make a big difference in viewers' lives.

Understandable and relevant

The program's friendly, personal and laid-back tone makes even difficult liturgical and biblical points much more understandable and relevant than they usually are.

The hosts relate the gospel to people's lives today, and to topical issues like corruption, politicians' excesses, etc.

Local color

The program has a lot of local color, which further particularizes its appeal to viewers in Pampanga. It also encourages Pampangueños to be more interested in their own culture, religious or otherwise, and to be proud of their traditions and patrimony, like the province's beautiful churches.

The show may be a community TV endeavor, but with the assistance of Marilou and her Ateneo students, it is professionally produced. Viewers appreciate this extra effort a lot, and reward "Men In White" with their avid patronage.

Let's have more such excellent community TV shows all over the country!

cbv7 media MASTER

presents a sensational 1st of its series of Wedding Marches, a high-fashion tribute highlighting a bride most extraordinaire, bride most fabulous: **Guyito**, *Philippine Daily Inquirer's official mascot and lovable symbolic see-all of the country's hot current events.*

Wedding March at Glorietta

Jan. 10 & 11, 2004

Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City

FEATURING

- ***On Exhibit***
  Guyito in Haute Couture bridal gowns by 10 of the Philippines' top fashion designers: ***Ben Farrales, Inno Sotto, Patis Tesoro, Eddie Baddeo, Rhett Eala, Rajo Laurel, Frederick Peralta, Jojie Lloren, Bobby Novenario and Eric Pineda***
- ***"Guyito's Wedding March" Contest***
  In cooperation with Philippine Daily Inquirer, one of the major activities of this event is this competition to dress up Guyito, PDI's official mascot. Please see contest mechanics below.
- ***Acoustic Night***
  A free concert featuring: Jimmy Bondoc, Paolo Santos, Nyoy Volante and Nina
- ***Raffle Draws***
  Open to suppliers/exhibitors and couples/guests
- ***Wedding & Trade Fair Exhibit***
  Showcasing the country's most prominent establishments

"Guyito's Wedding March" Contest Mechanics:

1. *The contest is open to all aspiring amateur designers 18 years old and above.*
2. *One pair of Guyito doll entitles a contestant to one entry form. The dolls must be purchased by the contestant starting* ***Dec. 1 to Dec. 26, 2003*** *from the Philippine Daily Inquirer main office at:*
   Philippine Daily Inquirer Building
   Don Chino Roces Avenue
   cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
   Each pair costs ***P350.00****. A contestant may submit as many entries as he/she wants.*
3. *The contest theme is "Guyito's Wedding March". A contestant is tasked to dress up the doll pair in wedding ensembles (as bride and groom) of his/her own design. No perimeters shall be set with the design.*
4. *Criteria for judging will be based on the following: Relevance to Theme (30%), Originality (30%) and Creativity (40%). Officers of Philippine Daily Inquirer and cbv7 Media Master will be present during the judging of the contest.*
5. *Deadline for submission of entries is at* ***6pm*** *on* ***Dec. 29, 2003*** *at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Head Office Marketing Department. Look for Hazel Soriaga and Masoy Cabuhat.*
6. *Judging will be on January 5, 2004 at Philippine Daily Inquirer main office in Don Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo), corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City at 2pm. A DTI representative shall be invited to witness the selection of the winners.*
7. *Winners will be notified by phone and registered mail, and will also be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.*
8. *All winning entries shall automatically become the exclusive property of PDI and may be used, copied, reproduced into any size or medium for exhibition, advertising, promotion, or similar purposes. All non-winning entries will be returned to the contestants after the awarding ceremonies.*
9. *PDI reserves and maintains all intellectual property rights.*
10. ***Prizes as follows:***
    1st prize : P15,000 cash
    2nd prize : P10,000 cash
    3rd prize : P5,000 cash
    All cash prizes are tax free.
11. *All winning entries will be displayed during the Wedding March at Glorietta in Makati City on Jan. 10, 2004. Awarding will be on Jan. 10, 2004 at 7pm. Officers of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and cbv7 Media Master will be present during the awarding.*
12. *Winners must present any valid I.D. (driver's license, passport, or any I.D. with picture) when claiming the prize.*
13. *The decision of the Board of Judges is final and unappealable with the concurrence of the DTI.*
14. *Employees of PDI, cbv7 Media Master, their advertising agency, dealers, all participating outlets and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion.*
15. *Only entries received until 6pm on Dec. 29, 2003 are qualified for the contest. A participant can send more than one entry but can only win once.*
16. *PDI and cbv7 Media Master reserve the right to publish or display any entry, winning or non-winning, for promotional purposes, without permission or payment of any kind to the owner of the Guyito doll.*

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Good way to relive musical youth

By Noelani Torre

WE wouldn't call ourselves fans of the Eagles, but their fame is such that even casual listeners like us know at least one or two of their songs (who hasn't hummed "living it up at the Hotel California"?).

Musical aerie

We haven't heard much from them for several years, however, which led us to believe that the Eagles had finally flown from their musical aerie, so to speak, never to return. Not so apparently, as the recently released "The Complete Greatest Hits" (Warner Music) shows.

Couple that with their new single, "Hole in the World," and you can guess that the Eagles aren't ready to retire just yet. As for their so-called "Farewell I" concert tour, notice the Roman numeral one attached, which suggests future "Farewell" tours.

"The Complete Greatest Hits" is hardly the first Eagles compilation of its kind. There was 1976's "Their Greatest Hits, 1971-1975," 1982's "Greatest Hits, Volume 2," and 2000's "Selected Works, 1972-1999." Hard to believe that they have this many hits, but they truly do.

From 1975 to '79 they managed to release four consecutive albums that topped the charts (resulting in a total of 27 weeks as No. 1 on Billboard's album chart). And one of these, the aforementioned "Greatest Hits, 1971-1975," is the best-selling album of all time in the United States, having sold more than 28 million copies in that country alone, making it the first album ever to be certified platinum.

Official classics

The "fifth best-selling band of all time," topped only by the likes of the Beatles, Elvis and Michael Jackson, the Eagles were inducted to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1998, which made them official classics.

We hesitate to deem this new collection as definitive, not being familiar with the entire Eagles output, but it's certainly more comprehensive than previously-released compilations.

Of course, fans would most likely argue that "Their Greatest Hits" and its accompanying "Volume 2" are the absolute classic Eagles collections, but for those who want to have a greater sense of the band's development from 1972 to the present, this new release would be a better choice.

With 33 tracks in two CDs, "Complete Greatest Hits" includes tracks from "Eagles" (1972), "Desperado" (1973), "On the Border" (1974), "One of These Nights" (1975), "Hotel California" (1976), "Eagles Live" (1980) and "Hell Freezes Over."

Their newest single, "Hole in the World," is also included. A great deal of the selections should be familiar to most as they include big-time hits like "Desperado," "New Kid in Town," "Tequila Sunrise," "Heartache Tonight,"and "Take It Easy."

Easy listening

We've noticed that a respectable number of Pinoys look favorably on this particular group (especially the '70s crowd), because the Eagles are "princes of easy listening," what with their attractively harmonized vocals and their easygoing country-rock roots.

The group disbanded a year after the release of their ironically-titled seventh album, "The Long Run."

"It was a long and difficult album," says vocalist and drummer Don Henley. "Everything was catching up to us. Too much pressure, too much worry, too much traveling, too many controlled substances, too much paranoia and infighting. I missed having a normal life!"

Country roots

With this album, their last for more than a decade (not counting the compilations), the Eagles showed how they had changed from their "Take it Easy" and "Peaceful Easy Feeling" country roots to the edgier "Life in the Fast Lane," and to the positive but desperation-inspired "The Long Run." All throughout, however, they managed to retain their laid-back sound without sacrificing grit or soul.

The band got together again in 1994 with "Hell Freezes Over," an album not as widely acclaimed as their earlier ones, but which nevertheless made its presence felt with the affirmative "Love Will Keep Us Alive" and "Get Over It."

Newest single "Hole in the World" is distinctively Eagles in vocal harmony and rhythm. The subject matter obviously refers to the Sept. 11 attacks and, though it's not one of their best songs, it's catchy enough and seems to have attracted a fair number of people, if the Top 40 charts are to be believed.

All in all, "The Complete Greatest Hits," with its long track-listing and extensive liner notes written by no less than Cameron Crowe, is a good investment for folks who want to know more about the Eagles, or who might want to relive their musical youth.

EAGLES. Fifth best-selling band of all time.

Ultimate home remedy

THE AUTHOR of "The Ginger Book" calls ginger the ultimate home remedy. Stephen Fulder explains to his readers the amazing wonders of ginger and how to use it to maximize one's health and vitality.

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

Whole book

How did Fulder ever come to the point of writing a whole book on a single rhizome? He narrates:

"Once I had a viral infection and a mid-range fever that seemed to drag on and on. I was feeling wretched—restless, achy, hot inside, and constantly nauseous with an awful headache and difficulty sleeping—the kind of misery that you think will never end when you are in the middle of it, but is soon forgotten when you recover.

"I asked for a strong tea made from grated ginger and honey, and the effect was almost instantaneous—I began to pour with sweat! Afterwards, almost everything sorted itself out. The aches subsided, my temperature dropped, I could vomit, and I was soon in a deep, healing sleep.

"The next day, I was well again. What happened was that the ginger in the tea "resolved" the fever in a manner that was as dramatic as the effect of any modern medication. Only, unlike acetaminophen or aspirin, it did not simply take away the symptoms while leaving the disease still there. It actually precipitated healing and encouraged a fast, natural recovery. It was then that I decided to research ginger."

Active compounds

And research Fulder did! His book enumerates some of the most useful, active compounds in ginger which bring good health. The following natural ginger substances interact and balance each other in the body: asparagine—promotes urination; borneol—analgesic, anti-inflammatory, lowers fever, protects liver; chavicol—kills fungi; cineole—anesthetic, clears chest/throat infections and coughs, antiseptic, lowers blood pressure; citral—antihistamine, antibiotic, etc.

Fulder describes the healing effects of ginger primarily on the circulatory and digestive systems of the body. It is used to remedy cold hands and feet, chills, weakness, poor digestion and vomiting, and weak circulation. He states, "Since ginger primarily acts on the stomach, lung and spleen energy paths, it is very useful for driving out colds, mucus, coughs and bronchial infections.

The Chinese use it when the weather is cold and damp, to prevent chills and rheumatic conditions.

Simple spice

Such information about ginger should broaden our meager understanding of ginger as a simple spice or tea that improves flavor or voice quality. It produces many healing wonders and can be easily used in dishes, tea or fresh juices.

Some of my friends take a liver-cleansing drink made of lemon juice, grated ginger and honey. Remember, you don't need a lot of money to be healthy. You only need to be wise!

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

Another chance . . .

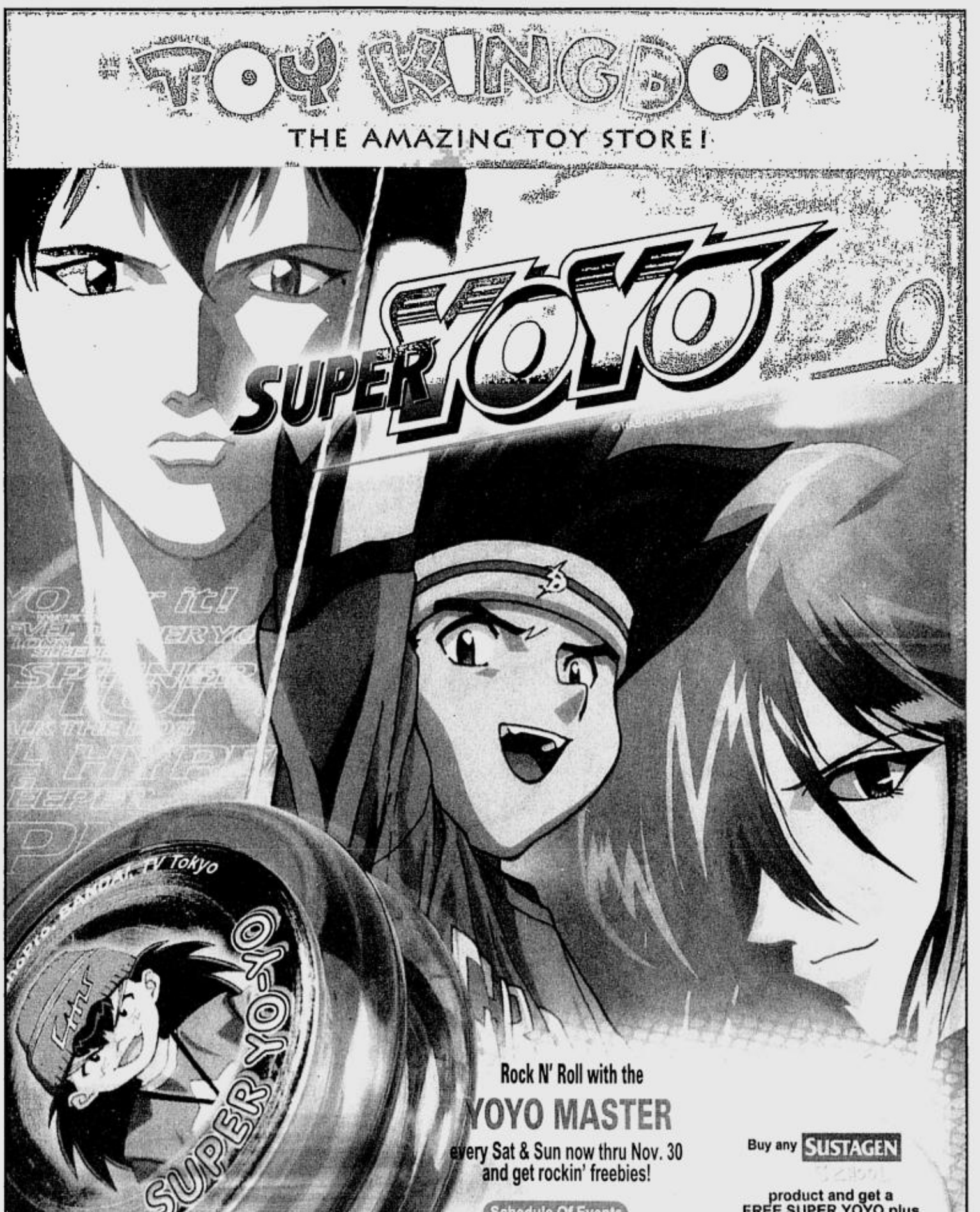
From page F4

technical aspects, like camerawork, lighting and sound, are superb.

"*Sabi nga nila,* if you want a universal film, make it about your village. It really works. I saw how our story traveled across boundaries. People could relate to Eddie's jokes and sympathized with Pen's uncertainty. They understood their domestic disputes. Their love-hate relationship is universal."

Ditsi gives us her interpretation of living along the railroad tracks: Eddie Renomeron is much funnier than the TV character Kevin Cosme. "Riles" shows us that an audience can understand issues even without a reporter's narration (Paging "I-Witness" and "The Correspondents").

BBC is acquiring the UK TV rights of "Riles." Let's hope that a local channel will also show Ditsi's outstanding and perceptive documentary here.



Nuptials uniquely enhanced by music in the key of love

By Nestor U. Torre

THE NEWLYWEDS, center, with their parents, (from left) Sen. and Mrs. Aquilino Pimentel, and Engr. and Mrs. Eric Borghijs.

PERFORMERS (from left) Andy Bais, Chelsea Emata, Bimbo Cerrudo, Jingle Buena and Rito Asilo sang songs especially composed by the bride's mother for the wedding reception.

ONE of the most unique weddings I've ever attended was the Nov. 7 ceremony that united Filipina Lorraine Pimentel with Belgian Alain Borghijs in holy matrimony.

Different nationalities

What made it unusual wasn't the bride and groom's different nationalities, but their wedding's being enveloped, framed, *cocooned* in an all-encompassing gift of songs, courtesy of Lorraine's mother, composer Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel, the wife of Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr.

At the Manila Cathedral, where the nuptials were held, Bing's songs filled the church and people's hearts throughout the ceremony. And, during the reception at the Manila Hotel's Centennial Hall, a mini-show was staged that further lifted the newlyweds' spirits on the bright, light wings of music.

The show got a very warm reaction from the newlyweds' guests, including principal sponsors Roselyn Magsaysay, Bettina Osmeña, Susan Ople, Gina de Venecia, former President Cory Aquino, Steve Psinakis, Sen. Vicente Sotto, Sen. Joker Arroyo, etc.

Important events

Talking to Bing later, we found out that the nuptials' musical orientation wasn't dictated just by the fact that she's been composing songs to celebrate important events in her family's life for decades now.

In fact, she intimated, the inspiration in this instance came from her daughter's fiance himself:

"Last December," Bing recalls with a smile, "Alain told Lorraine in Washington that he would be very happy if she could spend Christmas with him. But Lorraine said that she always came home to the Philippines for Christmas, so she could be with us. So, Alain asked her if he could join her here, and she said yes.

Nothing unusual

"We welcomed him, as we do all of our children's friends. At midnight, we prayed together, then held a little musical program, where out grandchildren sang and danced. We do this every year, so there was nothing unusual about it.

"But something extraordinary did happen when Alain suddenly stood up and volunteered to sing for us! We were surprised, because Lorraine didn't tell us that he was a singer.

"It turned out that he wasn't, but he just wanted to contribute to the evening's musical flavor—and he wanted to say 'something' to Lorraine that he was too shy to say with words, and found it easier to express in a song.

LORRAINE and Alain chose to pledge their troth with a classic ditty.

"Well, when he started singing, we knew right away what he felt for our daughter. His choice of song said it all: he sang 'Sweet Lorraine,' the song popularized by Frank Sinatra many years ago.

"He wasn't a professional singer, but his heart 'sang' for her—and beautifully so.

"The musical and magical moment's meaning wasn't lost on our dear daughter. After Alain finished singing, she stood up and embraced him.

"We didn't have to be told that something special had happened that Christmas night that would lead to something even more wonderful for them in the months and years to come. And all because Alain had chosen to pledge his troth with a beautiful song!

Talented artists

"What he did made me decide to make music the theme of their wedding, and the reception that followed. Aside from my existing songs, which were sung and played in church, I composed two new numbers for the mini-show that we presented at the reception.

"The four songs in that beautiful little presentation were performed by very talented artists who have sung and acted in my past musical-theater productions, like 'Buhay, Isang Awit' and 'Nassan si Hesus?'

"Our guests at the reception were effusive in their praise for the show and our performers—Bimbo Cerrudo, Jingle Buena, Chelsea Emata (my niece, who had flown in from the States just to sing for us), Andy Bais and Rito Asilo.

Inspiration

"Alain's parents, grandmother and friends were similarly impressed with and touched by the uniquely musical wedding and reception. But I threw their compliments back to them and said that it was all due to the inspiration I had gotten last Christmas, when Alain took his heart in his hand and offered it to our daughter Lorraine—with a beautiful, loving song!"

Another chance to watch Ditsi Carolino's 'Riles'

By Rica Arevalo

DUE to insistent public demand, Ditsi Carolino's latest documentary, "Riles," will be seen on the big screen during Human Rights Film Week at the UP Film Institute on Dec. 12, Friday at 2:30 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Final project

Ditsi is a recipient of the British Chevening Scholarship, and "Riles" is her final project for the National Film and Television School in England.

This project marks a lot of "firsts" for Ditsi. It is her first time to take formal classes in filmmaking. She adds, "This is the first time that I started a docu with a location in mind, then the idea and characters came. This is also the first time that I did not know where my story was heading. I just knew that it was an urban poor story."

After she showed her rushes to the school, her tutor immediately said, "This is going to be a smashing film." Ditsi took three months to assemble the documentary in the UK.

"The most important experience is being with a community. Everyone—my tutors and fellow students—contributed ideas to improve the film. It's a very hands-on school, you learn by doing. It believes so much in collaboration."

Additional footage

She was given a week to come back here to shoot additional footage, but her stay turned into months, much to the dismay of her tutor. "When you've done documentary for more than 10 years, it's so important for you to do it right and give it your best shot. *Di baleng ma*-extend, or you spend your own money," says Ditsi.

Her determination to stay with Eddie and Pen, her docu's central figures, until the couple's rented home was torn down made the dramatic structure more complete.

"Riles" was screened at the prestigious IDFA, International Documentary Festival in Amsterdam. Even if Ditsi had no posters or flyers, "Riles" rated highly in the audience's evaluation. If Michael Moore's Oscar winner, "Bowling for Columbine," was on top of the list, "Riles" was at number five.

In Toronto, Ditsi and her collaborator, Nana Buxani, made the rounds of supermarkets and churches to invite Filipinos to watch their film at HotDocs. The usual question would be, "*Sino ang bida? Sino ang dyan?*—*Syempre* documentary, *wala namang* stars."

Still, there were many foreigners in the 800-seat theater.

Press attention

After theater screenings in Canada, next came New York City's Human Rights Watch Festival. "The big thing about New York is getting press attention. We got good reviews in Variety and the Independent. We had a sold-out screening with a long standby line at the Walter Reade Theater, Lincoln Center.

"It was an affirmation of what we do. It's about human right issues, social justice. It's not just about being clever, but sending your message across. You are among kindred spirits and films," shares Ditsi.

The success of "Riles" comes from the natural openness of the Renomeron family, who let the filmmakers capture their everyday life with optimism despite their deep troubles.

"I spent a lot of time with them. Everyday was not a shooting day. *Madalas bonding, kain ka ng* bananacue with them, *kwentuhan lang*. I blended with them as unobtrusive as possible, then I reached a point where they could fight in front of me, and they didn't mind me anymore. I was there until something interesting came up, then I shot it," says the 2003 Cinemanila documentary winner.

"Riles" has no narration. Its style is more like cinema *verite*, but its

ANOTHER/ F3

CAROLINO (right) shoots on location for her latest documentary.

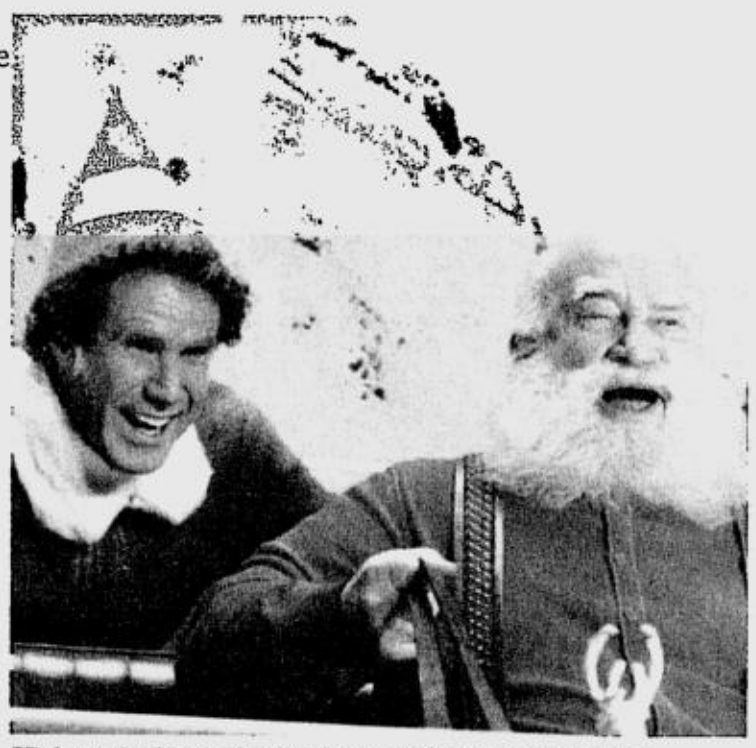
SATURDAY special

E-mail: pr_satu

Hollywood's Santas come naughty and nice–and everything in between

THORNTON. Plays a foul-mouthed thief who poses as a mall Santa in "Bad Santa."

LOS ANGELES—Where else but in Hollywood would Santa Claus arrive bearing gifts, cuss words and even an ax?



ED Asner (as Santa Claus) right, and Will Ferrell in New Line Cinema's "Elf." AP

Polar opposites

Screen Santas have ranged from naughty to nice, including the polar opposites of Edmund Gwenn's saintly Kris Kringle in the original "Miracle on 34th Street" to the ax-wielding psychopath dressed as Santa in the slasher flick, "Silent Night, Deadly Night."

This season's crop of St. Nicks features Billy Bob Thornton as a foul-mouthed, drunken thief who poses as a mall Santa so he and his helpers can pull off Christmas Eve heists in "Bad Santa."

Landing on home video is last year's "The Santa Clause 2," with Tim Allen reprising his role as a single dad who inherits St. Nick's job after accidentally killing Santa. The sequel sends him on a quest to find a bride, with Allen doing double duty as a fascist toy Santa replica that enslaves the North Pole with an iron will.

And there's Edward Asner in the current hit, "Elf," as a Santa struggling to keep the holiday spirit alive in a world that's passed him by. Asner's Santa mistakenly brings an orphan infant home to the North Pole, where the baby grows into a towering man (Will Ferrell) who thinks he's an elf.

Asner has a long history as the man in the red suit.

"I've done so many Santa Clauses or characters close to it," Asner said. "I've got a good Santa stomach."

Animated TV specials

Asner's past Kringle credits include the voice of Santa in such animated TV specials as "Olive, the Other Reindeer" and "The Story of Santa Claus," and the live-action TV movie, "The Christmas Star," in which he played an escaped convict disguised as Santa to recover stolen loot.

With "Elf," Asner brings a trace of his gruff Lou Grant persona from "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," presenting a Santa who has seen a few too many Christmases to maintain his ho-ho-ho mojo at full power.

"I really had a feeling this Santa's bones were aching at times. He's wondering if he's getting too old for this job," Asner said. "I also had an undercurrent of feeling that this Santa liked to have the occasional or more than occasional nip."

In "Bad Santa," Thornton takes far more than the occasional nip, playing a scruffy boozer who vomits in alleys and passes out in his Santa suit. Spewing profanity, Thornton's thieving Santa gets a lesson in holiday spirit from a misfit kid convinced the shady crook is the real St. Nick.

"What's great about the character is, he's one of those guys who's so pathetic that you've got to love him," Thornton said. "He's a sort of pitiful guy who's just sour all the time, and the fact that he ends up actually having a heart is great."

Standard

Previous Hollywood Santas generally have had more outward cheer about them. With 1947's "Miracle on 34th Street," Gwenn set a Santa standard that few Christmas stories have rivaled since.

Gwenn's Kris Kringle was the perfect Santa, a benevolent father figure with a perpetual twinkle in his eye.

The story—about a seeming nutcase caught up in a public insanity trial for believing he's Santa Claus—has been remade several times for TV and the big screen, most recently in 1994's "Miracle on 34th Street," with Richard Attenborough as Kringle. *AP*

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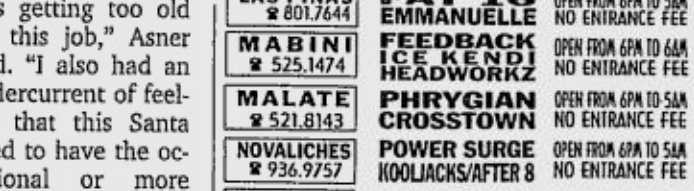

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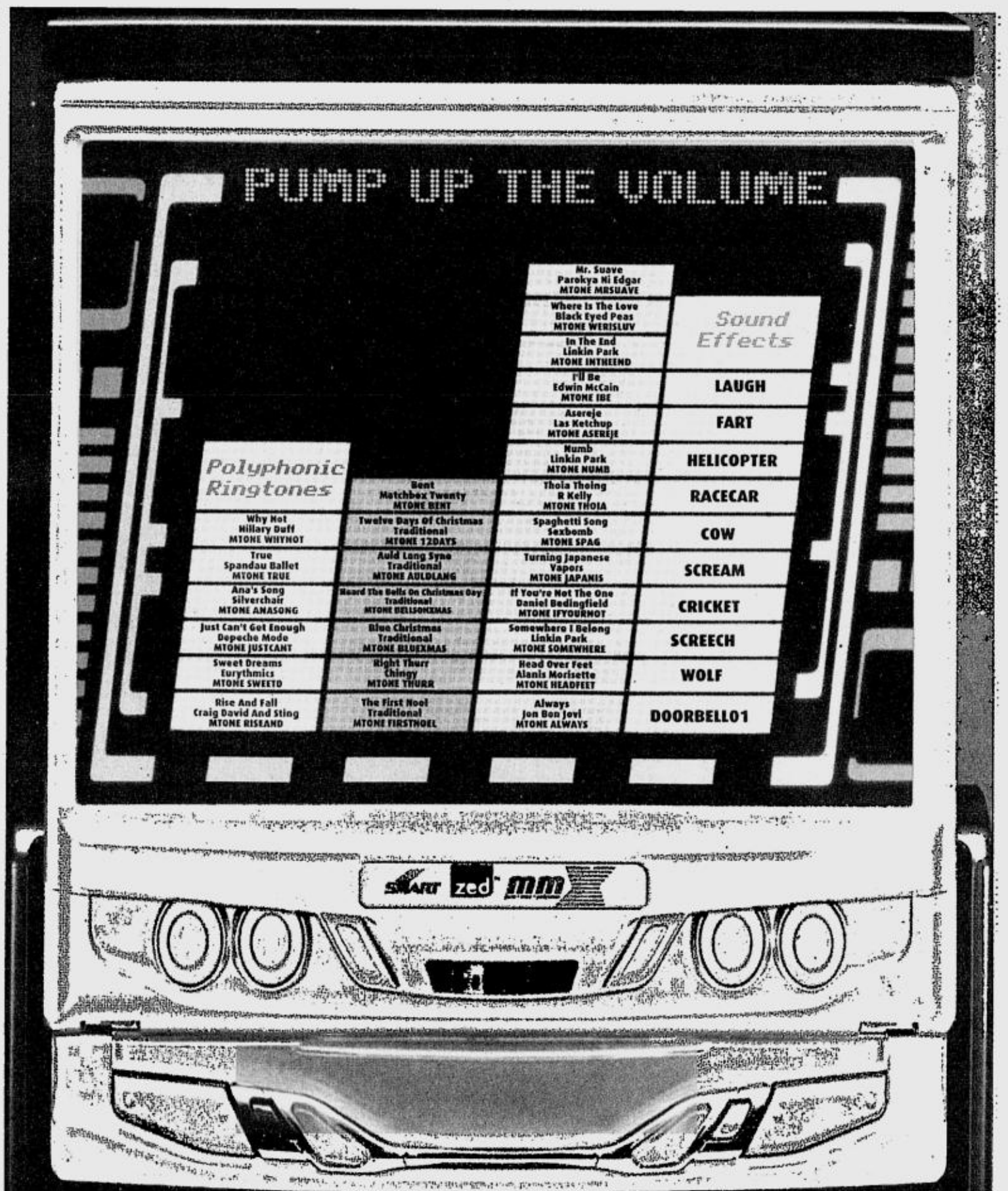

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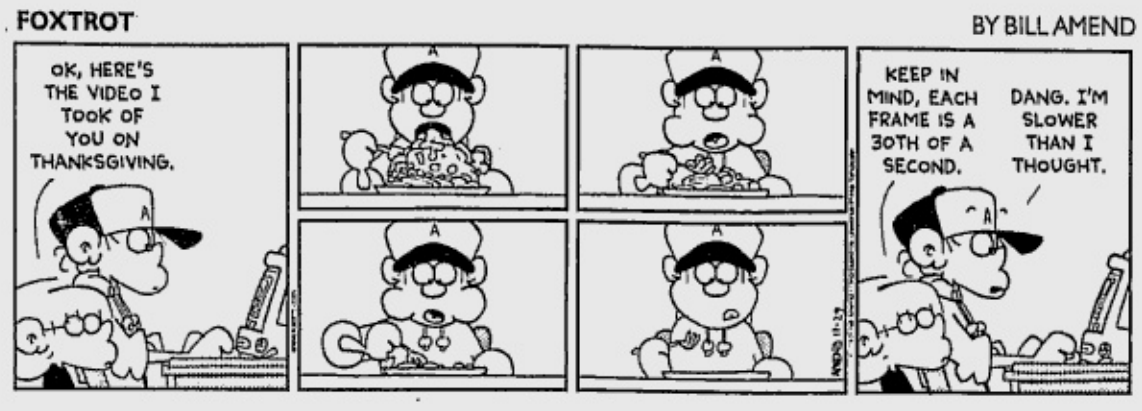
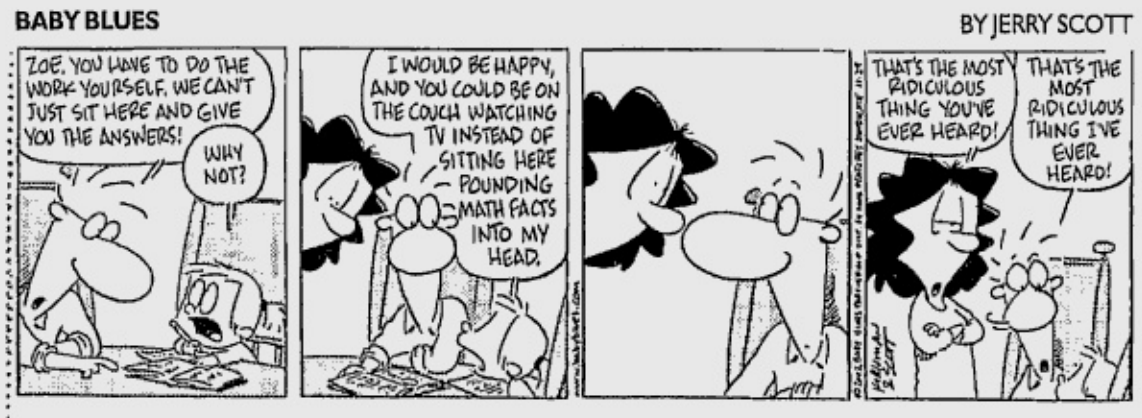


A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

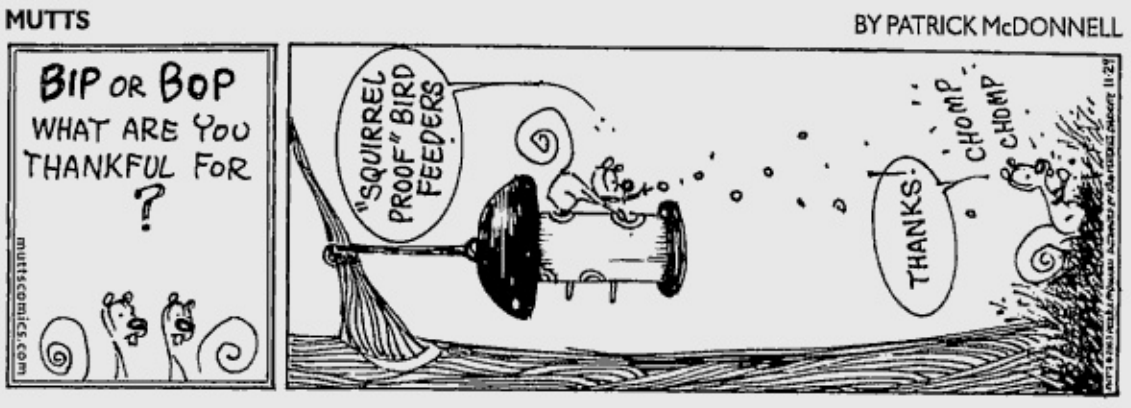
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are provocative. You like to make others think, and you know how to push their buttons. You see yourself as a defender of the truth. You're more concerned with your ideals than you are with your ambitions. New, fresh beginnings await you in the year ahead. Dare to dream big; ask for what you want.
Birthdate of: Chuck Mangione, musician; Kim Delaney, actress; CS Lewis, novelist/professor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Discussions with female friends are significant today. You might be surprised to find that someone is envious of you now. (Things look better on the outside than you think.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You dearly want to expand your horizons in some way. Naturally, your first choice is a cruise with luxurious food and in exotic places. You're hungry to learn something new.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Discussions with partners are important now. Remember that for a successful relationship, you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Because you have an urge to get better organized now, use this impulse to tidy up everything around you. It won't always be this easy. Act while the spirit moves you!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your creative talents are in overdrive now. Think of everything that you can do to use them, because this is a year when your earnings should increase.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Fun-loving flirtations lift your day. Any opportunity to express your creative talents or enjoy playful activities with children will delight you now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have a strong desire to express yourself to others today. Get out and socialize. Go for coffee; call a friend; do something.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You are starting to discover just how much love there is in your daily life. Don't take this for granted. Appreciation is the most important daily meditation we can do.

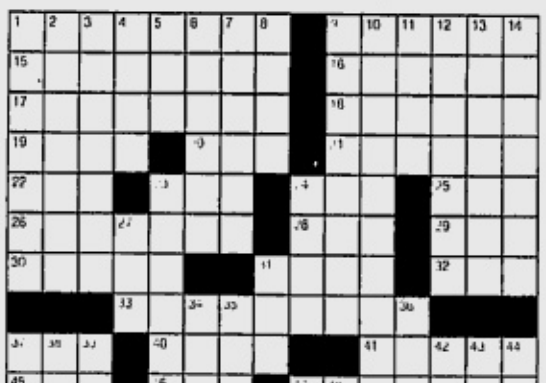
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Three planets in your sign certainly empower you now. It's perfectly OK to put yourself first. After all, it's your turn to replenish and re-energize yourself for the rest of the year.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Seek some solitude today if possible. You need little bits of quiet time to pull your act together before you take it on the road. You can't be everything to everyone all the time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Discussions with friends about your hopes for the future can help you define what you really want. Get feedback from others. It could make a big difference for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Do not shy away from extra responsibilities that are thrust upon you now. You will do well at them. People respect you now.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL
11/29/03

ACROSS
1 Balcony railings
9 Traveler's PC
15 Land of Ljubljana
16 Romantically involved
17 Like a group of excited birds
18 Trapper
19 Lofting tennis shots
20 Nest-egg $
21 Frequency selectors
22 Likewise
23 To's companion
24 Ashen
25 Strike sharply
26 Made possible
28 Initial letters
29 Part of IOU
30 Proportional relationship
31 Citrus fruit
32 Male or female
33 Bride's wardrobe
37 Classified __
40 Glamour competition
41 Subdivision of a people
45 Almond or cashew
46 Caspian or Aegean
47 Pass from Austria to Italy
49 Anger
50 Hail a dance?
51 Buttons of Hollywood
52 Marshland
53 Boston suburb
55 Ballerina s step
56 "__ Britannia"
57 Away from the coast
58 Digestive disorder
60 Posture
61 Remorseful
62 More brusque
63 Evaluates

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1 Church book
2 City in the Alleghenies
3 Simple watercraft
4 Rara __
5 Stroke gently
6 Complete
7 Steering linkage piece
8 "Two Mules for Sister __"
9 Fit for itemization
10 Proclaimed
11 Make arrangements
12 Corrida showmen
13 Intimidate
14 Plexiglas
23 Bloom
24 Oscillates the tail
27 Unit of memory
31 Bring into play
34 Rosebay
35 __ Bator, Mongolia
36 Vase with a base
37 Tree-worshipper
38 Jimmy of "Red, Hot and Blue"
39 Of constellations
42 Steeps
43 Direct route
44 Tubb and Hemingway
47 Clamps
48 Copal and amber
54 Dalley and Duryea
55 One of the Three Bears
56 Decomposes
59 Fade in the stretch

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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11/29/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

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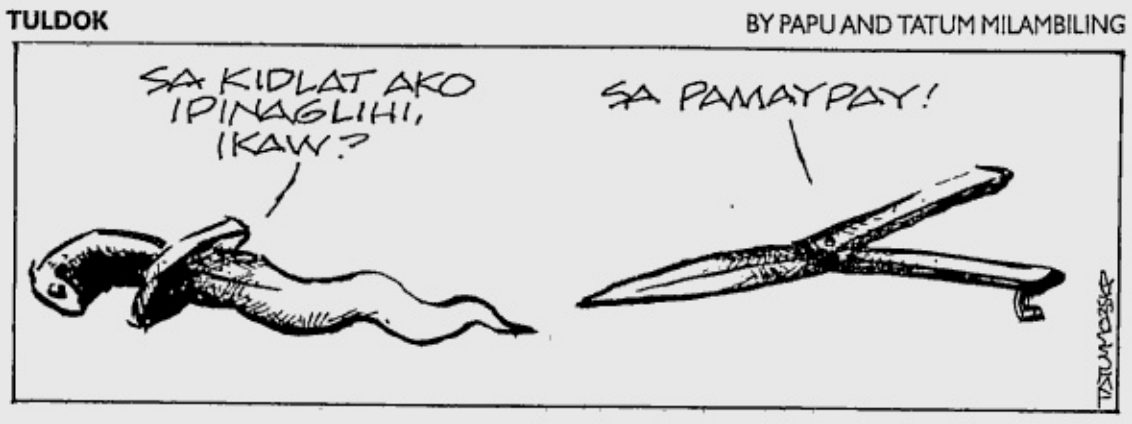


Eventful production style boosts new prankster show

By Nestor U. Torre

THE NEW ABS-CBN show, "Victim" (9 p.m., Saturdays) started telecasting with a bang last Nov. 22 with an actor posing as a movie scribe, and pretending to have an epileptic seizure while interviewing Angelika dela Cruz.

Practical joke

Angelika looked really scared as the "interviewer" thrashed around on the floor. Even after host Carlos Agassi assured her that the "seizure" was just a practical joke, it took the actress a long time to get a hold of her emotions.

That's the problem with "prankster" shows like this, some of their "jokes" can be too stressful for the people involved. It would be much better if the show could conceptualize pranks that are less potentially cruel and painful.

Similar shows on US TV are able to do this, so we trust that local TV people can control their sadistic tendencies and remember that there should be limits even to "reality TV " gambits.

In any case, the premiere episode last Saturday went on to stage another practical joke that was much less stressful on its "victims:" Cindy Kurleto pretended to be really hungry, and sat down at different couples' tables in a cafe, and wolfed down their food.

DELA CRUZ. It took her a long time to get a hold of her emotions.

More amusing

This prank was more amusing because Cindy's victims were so cool about her gustatory onslaughts. None of them embarrassed the actress with a nasty put-down, and this was really something, because she acted like she was hell-bent on eating everything in sight!

Most of the first show's victims didn't have any inkling that they were being set up—but Bayani Agbayani wasn't as gullible. At first. he looked really disturbed when a young woman demanded that he pay a big debt, but he soon sensed that there was something fishy going on, and started looking for the hidden camera.

When he found it, the show's ruse was up, and Bayani was very pleased with himself. Is this a portent of things to come for the program? Now that celebrities know that there's a practical joke show on the tube, they'll be harder to fool from here on in. So, "Victim" will have to come up with more clever ruses, or it'll be left with not enough gullible celebrities to victimize.

Too bland

Final observation: while the show has an agreeably lively and eventful production style, host Carlos Agassi is too bland to suit its puckish purposes.

The host of such a program should be more clever and livelier in his involvement in setting up pranks, and in keeping its intended victims in the dark. Sure, the show has staffers to take care of the nitty-gritty, but its host should more actively set the right crafty, clever tone.

And Emil and Giselle's . . .

• From page G4

lang ang baby?" she explains.

Giselle praises Emil, whom she describes as a giving father. "His job is to change diapers and to help our baby burp after breastfeeding," she proudly shares.

Relationship with the Lord

Her marriage has also deepened her relationship with the Lord. Giselle and Emil are active members of a Catholic charismatic group.

Motherhood has also changed Giselle as a performer. She says she'll always be a naughty performer, but the green jokes have to go. "*Pero* sexy comedienne *pa rin ako, kasi di naman nagbago ang aking katawan.* And my boobs are even bigger now—I don't even have to wear pads anymore!," she crows.

Rock compilation not all that fresh

By Noelani Torre

(Conclusion)

THE OTHER songs in "Super Fresh" could probably be classified under the umbrella tag of "alternative"—like Good Charlotte's "Girls And Boys," Oasis' "Little By Little," Third Eye Blind's "Blinded (When I See You)," Matchbox 20's "Unwell," and Remy Zero's "Save Me."

Alternative

LAVIGNE. Jaded.

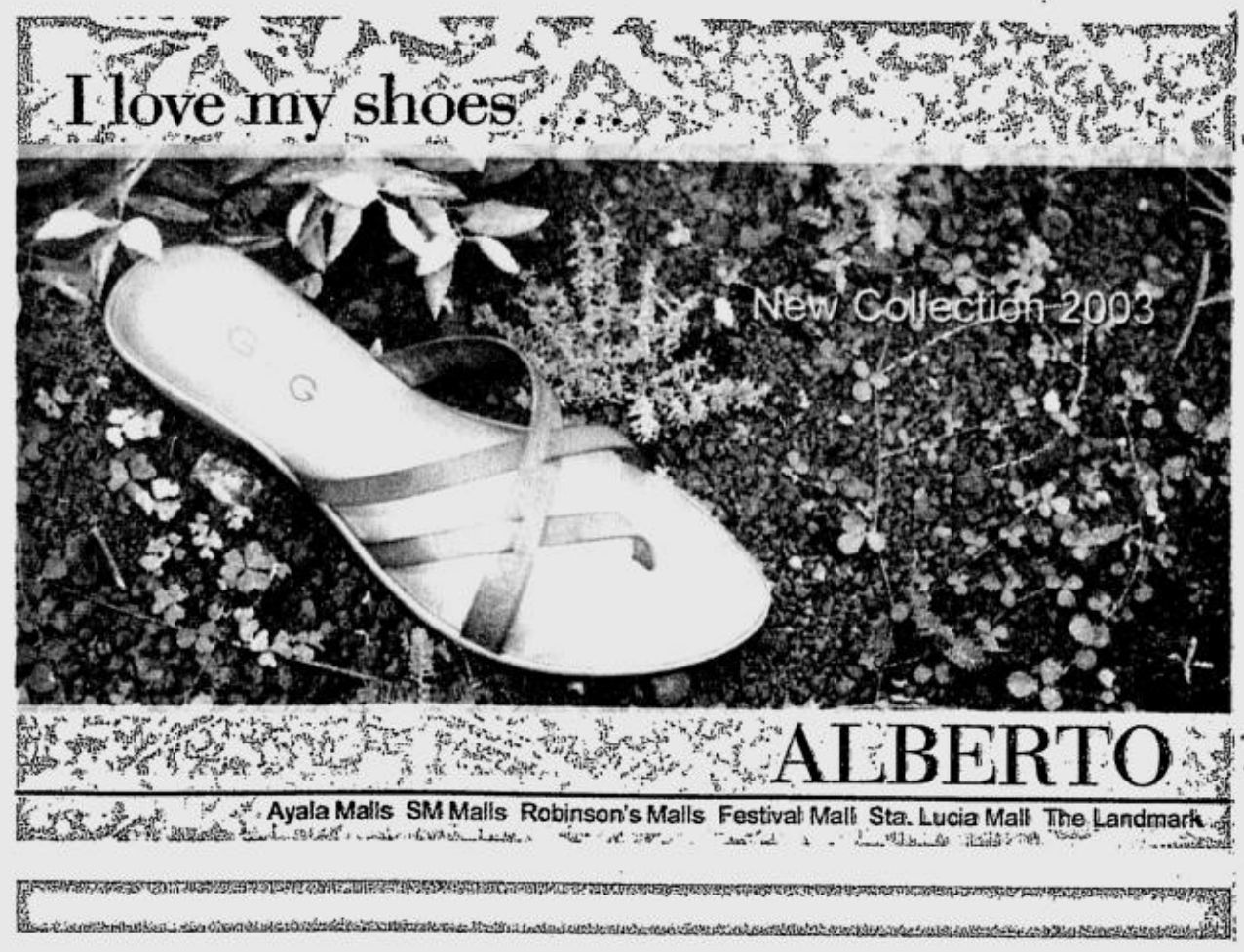
Alternative is a useful label as these particular songs—and bands—aren't easy to place with their rock-based, but still varied elements.

The jaded Avril Lavigne also makes an appearance here with "Complicated," a not-quite-punk number that will have you singing along in no time (as a lot of people have obviously realized, considering Lavigne's chart-topping sales).

Aspirations

In the same punk-ish tradition is Simple Plan's "Addicted," derisively referred to by some unforgiving music critics as "high-school punk." It's a toe-tapping lil' song, however, and if you don't mind its aspirations to punk, this song will have you bopping along quite contentedly.

Most folks will probably enjoy this collection—after all, how can you go wrong with certified hits? And, if you're the sort who gets a little hung-up on off-beam labels (as we obviously are), the wisest course would be to ignore them—and just enjoy the music.



And Emil and Giselle's baby makes three

By Andy P. Bais

VERSATILE comedienne Giselle Sanchez is the envy of some first-time moms: While most of them have to struggle to regain their old form, Giselle got rid of her excess poundage quite easily. In fact, at 110 lbs., she's two pounds lighter than her usual weight—only two months after giving birth to Emilia Gisela Buencamino. "*Para lang akong nangitlog*," she quips.

Happy couple

Everything was planned for Giselle and husband Emil, including the coming of their first-born. The happy couple has been married for three years now, and part of their plan was for the baby to come on their third year together.

"The first year, we enjoyed each other's company; the second year was for building our house. Otherwise, *sa kusina matutulog si* Emilia," the new mother jokes.

"*Kailangan kong manganak* before November, because that's when I get more bookings for corporate shows, and Christmas parties," she explains.

Feeding time

During our interview, Giselle had to excuse herself because it was her baby's feeding time. She breastfeeds young Emilia. What happens when she has out-of-town shows? "I just pump my breasts for milk and store it in the refrigerator. *Kaya parang* dairy farm *ang aking* ref," she laughs.

Breastfeeding is partly the reason why Giselle lost weight. "Breastfeeding is important because you share a part of yourself with your baby," she adds.

Giselle's sleeping habits have changed, but she isn't complaining. "I used to sleep for eight to 10 hours. Now, *mga* four to six hours *na lang, kasi* I have to wake up every two hours to feed her.

"But people tell me that my aura is beautiful these days. I can go out now without make-up. *Noon,* I looked naughty and mischievous; now, I look immaculate," she laughs.

The baby's name is a combination of her parents' names. Her friends tease her about her predictable choice, but she defends herself: "I did research on it. Emilia means beauty and brains, and Gisela means grace—so, beauty and brains with grace!"

Advice

She was in a hurry to go back to work but she now realizes that she should have let her wounds heal completely. "*Talagang di kinaya ng* powers *ko! Nawakwak ang tahi ko* down there. So, my advice to would-be mothers is: Get complete rest," she says.

Motherhood has definitely changed Giselle's perspective in life. "I used to be self-centered. With my baby around, I no longer think of myself, *siya na ang nauuna sa akin.* Like, when I joined a game show, I quit *maski apat na lang kami na natira* and P1 million was at stake, *kasi ilulublob kami sa ube. Natakot akong baka ako ma*-infect, *paano na*

AND/ G3

EMILIA (center) poses with her proud parents.

SATURDAY Sh

Preview of Hollywood's top holiday films

LOS ANGELES—What's the story on some of the holiday season's biggest movies? The Associated Press asked cast and filmmakers for their take on half a dozen of the top releases:

• **"The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"**

Director Peter Jackson polishes off his three-film adaptation of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy epic of hobbits, humans, wizards and elves in mythical Middle-earth. Producer Barrie Osborne gives the rundown:

"At its essence, it's about a heroic hobbit who is burdened with the task of saving civilization by destroying this evil power. Whether or not they succeed, Tolkien readers already know, and people who haven't read Tolkien will have to watch the movie to find out."

• **"The Last Samurai"**

Tom Cruise stars in director Edward Zwick's adventure saga of a disenchanted soldier who journeys to 19th-century Japan to train the locals in modern warfare. Cruise sizes up the story:

"He's a past Civil War veteran, a Medal of Honor winner, but he's been through a lot in his life, and he's made some horrible mistakes. It is a big epic adventure, but it's also about his journey and realization about who he is and where he belongs.

• **"Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat"**

Theodor Geisel's beloved children's book comes alive, with Mike Myers as the mischievous feline who teaches two young shutins how to live it up.

• **"Peter Pan"**

J.M. Barrie's tale of Neverland and eternal child Peter, his pal Wendy and their pirate nemesis Capt. Hook get live-action treatment by director P.J. Hogan. Jason Isaacs, who plays both Hook and Wendy's dad, offers the setup:

"It's about a boy who will never grow up fighting a man who is too grown up—the two of them fighting for the soul of a girl who's trying to decide which one she wants to be. It's a Freudian nightmare for

PREVIEW/ H2

"THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RETURN OF THE KING." About a heroic hobbit burdened with the task of saving civilization. AP

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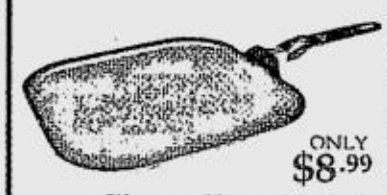

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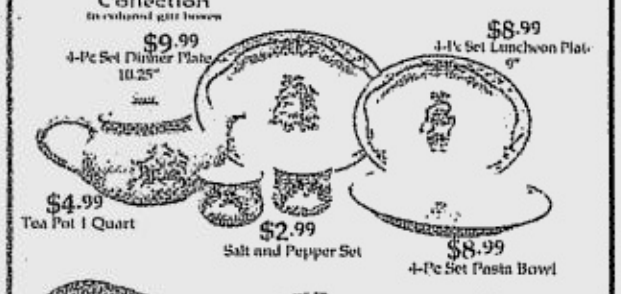

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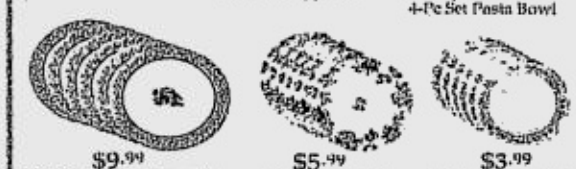

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Book featuring 'Mga Munting Tinig,' 'Homecoming' screenplays launched

By Jocelyn Valle

IT'S been a year since "Mga Munting Tinig" ("Small Voices") premiered at the 27th Toronto International Film Festival in Canada and subsequently captured the hearts of moviegoers here and abroad. Now, director Gil Portes and co-writers Adolf Alix Jr. and Senedy Que share once again with the public the story of a young teacher named Melinda who's made a difference in the lives of the poor and uninspired children in the fictional town of Mulawig—in print this time.

EGGIE Apostol (right) was presented one of the first copies of the book by Portes.

OROPESA AND DE ROSSI. Stars of "Homecoming."

MACEDA, APOSTOL AND ROCO. Graced the premiere screening of new movie on SARS.

Latest collaboration

A book published by the UST Publishing House features the screenplay of "Mga Munting Tinig," and also that of the creative team's latest collaboration, "Homecoming."

During the book launch, last Nov. 21 at SM Megamall's Cinema 10, Portes presented the first four copies of the book to guests of honor Eugenia Apostol, president of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power Inc.; former Education Secretary Raul Roco, Marichu Maceda and Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo (proxied by wife Gigi).

Empowerment through education

The FWWPP, which advocates people empowerment through education, sponsored the first public screening of "Mga Munting Tinig." "*Tugmang-tugma*" was how Apostol described the movie and the foundation's vision as she accepted her copy of the book.

Portes expressed gratitude to Maceda, who helped collect funds for "Mga Munting Tinig's" participation in various international film festivals. Maceda, in turn, commended the maverick filmmaker for bravely taking the road less traveled by most movie directors.

Roco, whom Portes repeatedly referred to as a private citizen and "Attorney," agreed with Maceda. He was garbed in his trademark Hawaiian shirt and obligingly shook hands with the people present.

Entry

Ms Malonzo, on the other hand, encouraged the audience to watch "Homecoming," which is an entry to this year's Metro Manila Film Festival. The mayor is the chair of the filmfest's selection committee. Their son, Christopher, is part of "Homecoming," which had its premiere screening right after the book launch.

"Homecoming" is about Abby, a young overseas Filipino worker in Toronto, Canada who comes home after five years.

Unknowingly, she infects her youngest brother Noel with the SARS (Severe Acquired Respiratory Disease) virus. Her world collapses when she and her brother are forcibly quarantined, and Noel eventually dies, while the other members of her family, especially her mother Salve (Elizabeth Oropesa), are ostracized by their townmates. In the end, though, the once fragmented Edades family becomes whole again.

"Homecoming" is the second collaboration of Portes, Que and Alix, after "Mga Munting Tinig."

Further studies

Portes graduated from the University of Santo Tomas and took further studies in broadcasting and cinema in New York and London. Three of his films—"Saranggola," "Gatas: Sa Dibdib ng Kaaway" and "Mga Munting Tinig"—have been submitted as Philippine entries to the Oscars (in the best foreign-language category).

Film graduate

Senedy Que is a film graduate from the University of the Philippines. He also studied screenwriting at the Ohio University as a Rotary Foundation scholar and had stints at the Exhibitor Relations departments of Paramount Pictures and Miramax Films.

His first screenplay, "Babae," earned nominations from the Metro Manila Film Festival in 1997 and from the Star Awards the following year. "Mga Munting Tinig" and "Homecoming" are his second and third films scripts. He writes for "Sharon" and other Channel 2 programs.

Adolf Alix Jr. is a magna cum laude graduate from the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. His first screenplay, "Ada," won the grand prize at the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines Inc.'s scriptwriting contest in 1997, and served as inspiration for ReynaFilms' "Kahapon, May Dalawang Bata."

Lani Misalucha shines in Crossover concert

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

LANI Misalucha recently top-billed an intimate concert by Crossover at the Mandarin Oriental with Marielle and The Opera. Marielle opened the show with "Heaven," "Night to Remember" and "Sa Paglisan Mo." Marielle has a good singing voice but she has to work on establishing rapport with her audience.

MISALUCHA. Vocal prowess.

Sweet but powerful

Lani did songs by Anita Baker, Patti Austin and Natalie Cole. Cheers greeted Lani as she sang "Starting Over." It was sweet but powerful. She sounded almost black.

"This Will Be," "Say You Love Me" and "Orange Colored Sky" got loud applause because she imbued them with sensitivity, feeling and sincerity. She also flaunted her vocal prowess by belting.

Lani hit the high notes with precision as she sang "In My Life," but her version lacked fire and passion.

Her rendition of "If I Believed" was soulful and moving. Her voice was filled with longing and sadness. While she was singing, it seemed like she was holding back her tears.

Romantic side

Lani showed her romantic side when she sang "Sweet Love," "Rapture" and "No One in the World." She kept her emotions in check and opted to be more laid-back with these love songs.

She was spontaneous and agreed to sing requests from the audience. She sang "Better Days" and "Feel Like Making Love." She even imitated Jaya as she sang "Dahil Tanging Ikaw." She did a duet with Gerard Salonga on "How Do You Keep the Music Playing."

She got thunderous applause with "Just Because," "Miss You Like Crazy" and "Through the Test of Time." The audience loved it when she stretched her vocal cords to their limit to belt.

She saved her best numbers for her encore. "Never, Never, Never" and "Love Will Lead You Back" were vocally exhausting, but she imbued them with passion and soul.

Preview of Hollywood's . . .

From page H1

everyone involved."

• **"Something's Gotta Give"**

Jack Nicholson's a womanizer specializing in robbing the cradle until he falls for someone in his age range (Diane Keaton), who's also wooed by a young emergency-room doctor (Keanu Reeves).

• **"The Missing"**

Tommy Lee Jones and Cate Blanchett star in Ron Howard's Old West tale of a pioneer mother who reunites with her wayward father to hunt for her abducted daughter. *AP*

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM NOV 29 - DEC 5

CH	2	4	5	7	9	23	27	45	49
	6:00 Star in A Million 6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:30 Home Along da Airport 9:00 Victim 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 'F' 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Celebrity Turns 11:30 Flash Report 12:00 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	7:00 Kitscelera 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 BYK 101 10:00 Travel 10:30 Global Family Series 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	6:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	6:00 Agila Reports 6:30 New Yankee Workshop 7:00 Car Guys 7:30 Screen Savers 8:30 Home Grown 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanalaym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 PBA First Filipino cup 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Concert of Various Artist	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Ispup atpb. 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 KI 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 May Puso ang Balas 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 A Second Look	9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	6:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Bachelor 10:30 Digital Tour	6:00 Captured 6:30 Home Grown 7:00 Convergence 7:30 Fresh Gear 8:00 Tomorrow Today 8:30 Arts Unlimited 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 24 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8:00 Endless Love II 8:30 Starstruck 9:00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 OPTV	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 Global Family Series 7:00 Japan Video Topics 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Birds of Prey 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Convergence 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 24 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Insider 11:30 Pipol	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Campus TV 9:00 E.R. 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Wedding Works 11:00 Bugs	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8:00 Endless Love II 8:30 Starstruck 9:00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 All Together Now 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 Single Girls 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sports In Focus 11:00 RTV, Our Rhythm, Our Reality	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 US Tennis Open 8:00 Global Family Series 9:00 Japan Video Topics 10:00 Travel 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Up Close and Personal	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Screen Savers Edit A 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 24 9:00 Whattamen 10:00 Klasmeyts 11:00 Insider 11:30 Special Assignment	5:00 PBA First Filipino cup 10:00 MMDA on The Road 11:00 Magbuhay Professional 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Pygmalio 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Friends 9:00 Single 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Task Force Siyasat	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8:00 Endless Love II 8:30 Starstruck 9:00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Nuts Entertainment 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Malcolm In the Middle 7:30 Still Standing 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Everwood 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Girls Behaving Badly 11:00 Cerge for Truth	10:00 Breaking Barriers 10:30 IBC News Tonite	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 CSI 9:00 Alias 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Fresh Gear 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 24 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 11:00 Insider 11:30 Dong Puno Live	6:00 The Working President 7:00 Ugnayan Pambansa 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Paco Park Presents 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Dragon League 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Guinness World Records 9:30 Working 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8:00 Endless Love II 8:30 Starstruck 9:00 Nanito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Magpakailanman 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Debate	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Baby Bob 7:30 Sabrina 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Crossing Jordan 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Hidden Hills 11:00 Police Hour	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 Global Family Series 8:00 Phil. Pro Boxing League 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 CelebrityDatCom 10:30 IBC News Tonite	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Barkada Nights 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Screen Savers Edit B 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:30 Q Showcase
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 24 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 11:00 Insider 11:30 Private I	5:00 PBA First Filipino cup 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 Fancy Lala 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:00 The Big Night 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Twin Hearts 8:00 Endless Love II 8:30 Starstruck 9:00 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Bubble Gang 11:00 Saksi 11:30 Emergency	6:00 Invader Zim 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 The Pretender 8:00 Just for Laffs 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 Dead Zone 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday	10:00 Entrepinoy 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 GMA The Working President	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 X-Men 7:30 Justice League 8:00 Thieves 9:00 The X-Files 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:00 Net 25 Report 6:30 World Report Filipino Edition 7:00 Openline 7:30 Euromaxx 8:00 Auto Motor and Sports 8:30 DWTV Journal 9:00 Iglesia ni Cristo Television	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan

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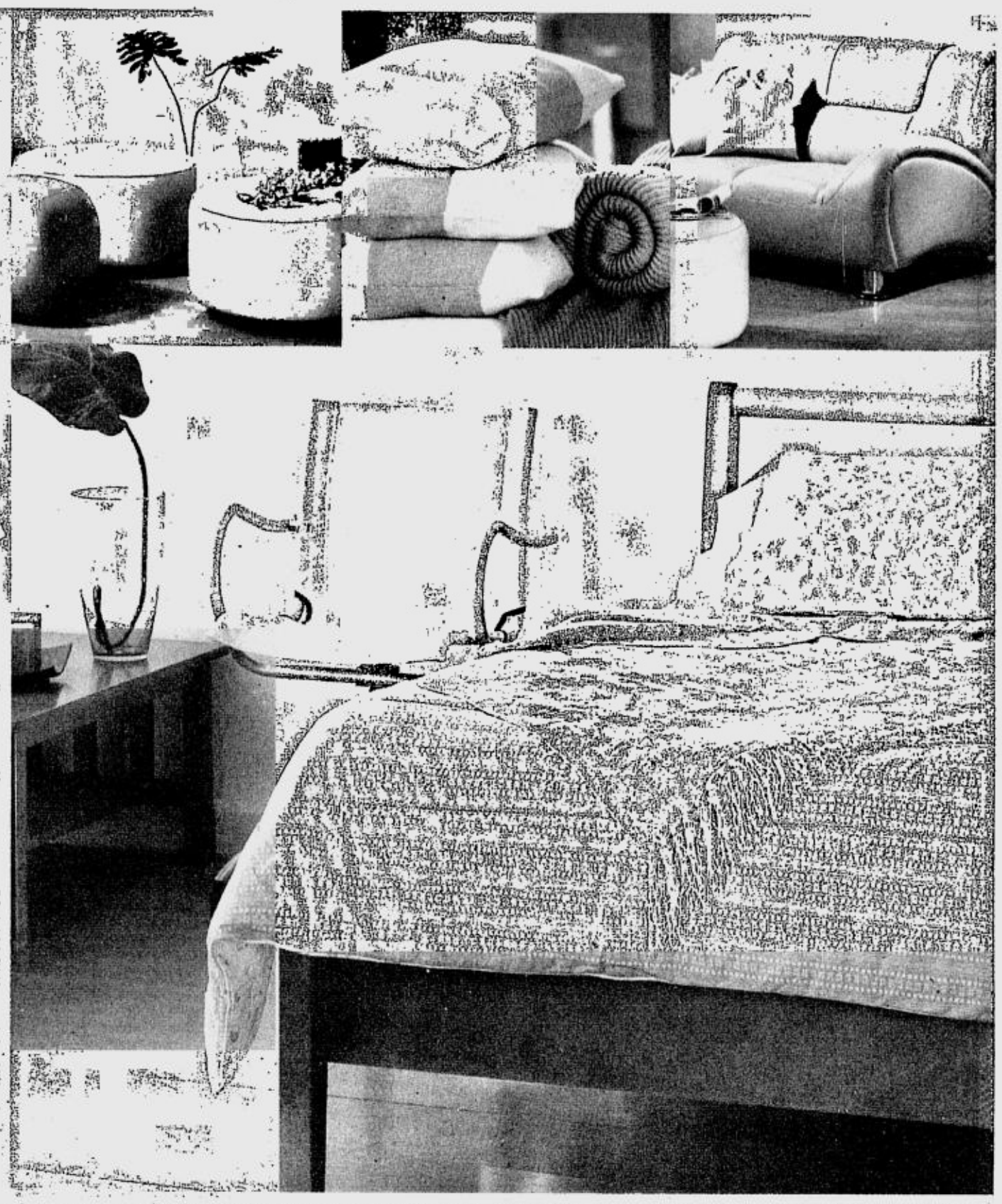

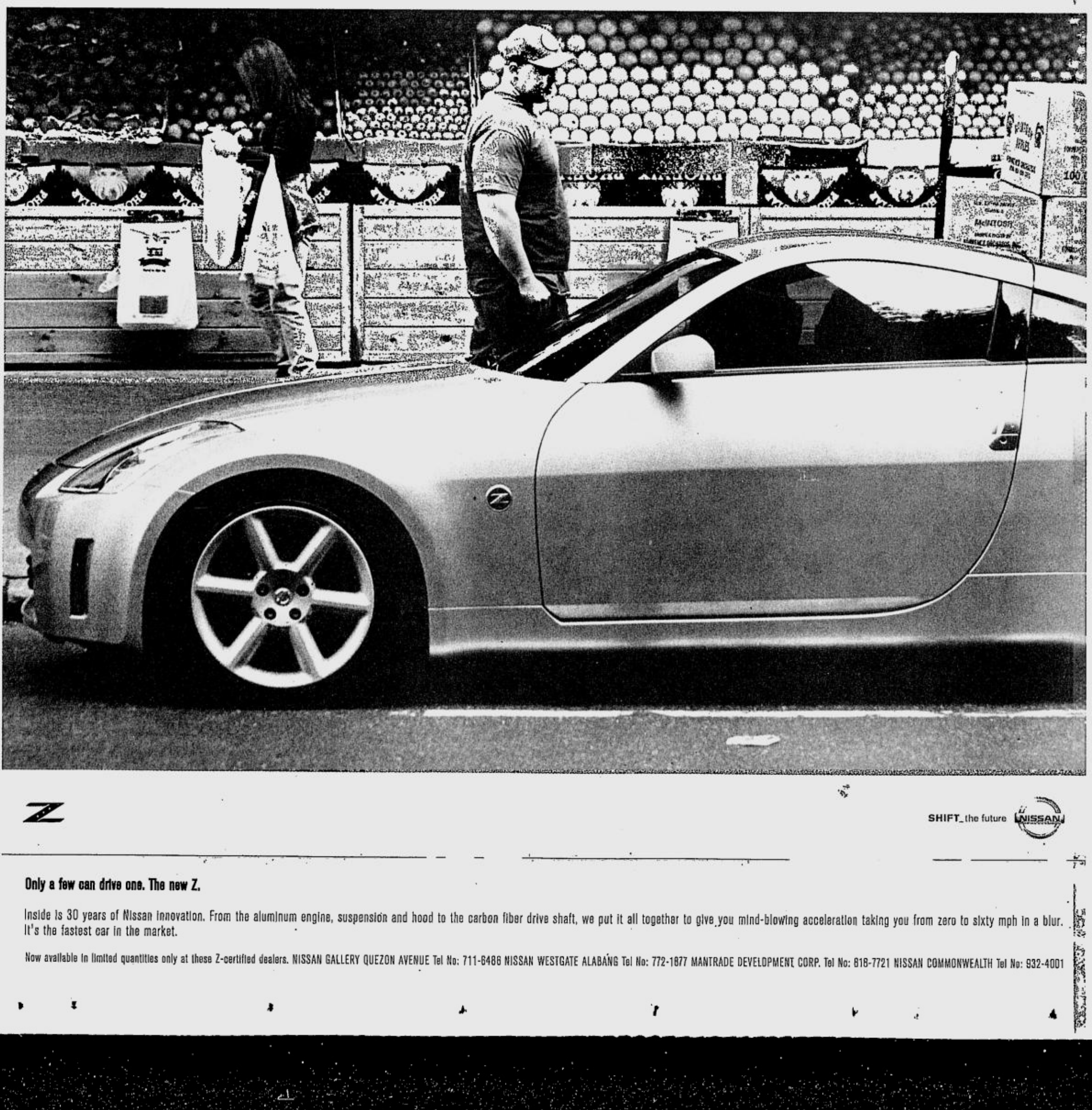

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SATURDA

"DICKIE Roberts" leads (from left) Barry Williams, Leif Garrett, Corey Feldman, Dustin Diamond and Danny Bonaduce. AP

Former child stars discuss overzealous parents, cruel fans

By Anthony Breznican

LOS ANGELES—The glory of being a famous cute kid can fade fast. What often remains is nostalgia, taunting and the occasional pummeling in a celebrity boxing tournament.

Limelight

Some are bitter. Some have made peace with their past and found new successes. Others still seem a little dazed from the long-extinguished limelight.

The Associated Press sat down to talk about the former child star phenomenon with Barry Williams (Greg on "The Brady Bunch"), Danny Bonaduce (Danny on "The Partridge Family"), Dustin Diamond (Screech from "Saved By the Bell"), Leif Garrett (teenage heartthrob singer of "I Was Made for Dancin'") and Corey Feldman (Mouth from "The Goonies.")

All five play themselves as poker buddies in the new David Spade comedy, "Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star," offering advice to the fictional kiddie star. Q and A:

Do you feel like your childhood was that weird? The whole point of 'Dickie Roberts' is that he's too messed up to function.

Bonaduce: It weren't as weird as Dickie's, but it was weird. I was 10 and would get up to go to work and there would be 400 people in my front yard with signs—only because they couldn't find David Cassidy's house. (Laughter.) That's weird!

Williams: The abnormalities come in with the kind of attention we had. Touring, making records, showing up at the set everyday. You had publicity machines, agents...

How do the fans treat you now?

Diamond: You can't really go out to regular places and not get recognized and not get hassled.

Bonaduce: Everybody recognizes me, but they don't care.

Diamond: When I go to the movie theater, right when the lights go down, people shout out 'Screeeech!' If someone notices me and wants to get an autograph, usually they're loud about it.

What do you do? Sink down in your chair and wait for it to end?

Diamond: Sometimes I'm a smart-ass about it. I try not to be, but sometimes it weighs on you.

You're in a theater. 'What are you doing here?' 'I'm bowling.' What do they think I'm doing? I'm seeing a movie, I'm not shopping for groceries.

Bonaduce: Oooooh.

Feldman: Ooh, you really have a bad attitude.

Bonaduce: (To Diamond) You know what I do? I have this novel approach. When they come up to me, I say 'Thanks.'

FORMER/ I2

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Mariah Carey thrills euphoric Manila crowd

By Rito P. Asilo

DESPITE a ticket given to us by our brother, we thought we weren't going to make it to Mariah Carey's concert. We were glad, though, that we did. We rushed to The Fort at half-past nine, thinking all we'd see would be the tail-end of the concert of the world's biggest-selling female artist (with an astounding 150 million records sold).

Vocal ensemble

We didn't miss much, though, except for the fireworks display. We even caught the performance of the eight-man vocal ensemble, Akafellas, which was given the daunting task of "front-acting" the concert. The boys were initially booed, but won the crowd over in the end with their strong performance.

When Carey finally went onstage, her unmistakably powerful voice sent the crowd into a frenzy. The statuesque (5'10") chanteuse sang "Heartbreaker," looking every inch like how you'd imagine a superstar diva to look—perfect, radiant make-up, fabulous outfit and a never-ending smile meant to charm your pants off. And that voice!

Haunting ballad

"Hey, Manila!," she shouted to the euphoric crowd, before she latched into "Dreamlover" and "Through The Rain," as she sat on a pink cushion. She followed this with the haunting ballad, "My All." We didn't expect her voice to be that crystal clear! She would occasionally lapse into Minnie Ripperton-style falsettos that sent the crowd shouting, "We love you, Mariah!"

It was one of those very humid nights, and Mariah was sweating throughout her performance. She said, "It's nice and hot out here—and I like that!" When she sang "Can't Take That Away (Mariah's Theme)," from her "Rainbow" album, the moment seemed very personal, as though she was singing to herself.

When she sang "Honey," she lapsed into her now-familiar dance moves that brought the crowd to a dancing tizzy.

After changing her costume (which she did many more times during the performance), she sang the sexy R&B rap, "I Know What You Want," as a duet with rapper Busta Rhymes on the video wall.

CAREY. Even her band acknowledgment was done with a song.

Vignettes

"This is about my life," she said, as she introduced a video showing vignettes of her as a hopeful, struggling artist, just three months after high school and dreaming of the big-time.

Even her band acknowledgment was done with a song. This number was a testament to Mariah's vocal prowess, with her

MARIAH/ I3

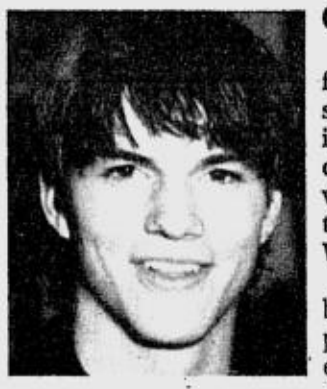
TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Ashton's academic past

By Rito P. Asilo

"WHICH heartthrob has a fraternal twin brother? What course did he take in college?"

Answer: Ashton Kutcher has a fraternal twin named Michael. He majored in biochemical engineering at the University of Iowa but dropped out to pursue modeling.



ASHTON. Has a fraternal twin named Michael.

Sly condition

"Sylvester Stallone sold the rights to his screenplay for 'Rocky' with the condition that he be cast in the title role. Who was the actor the producers wanted for the role?"

Answer: They wanted Ryan O'Neal for the part, and offered Stallone $150,000 to agree to their casting preference. Sly won out in the end.

Color scheme

'John Travolta was unforgettable as the white suit-wearing Tony Manero in John Badham's 'Saturday Night Fever.' But Travolta wanted his disco costume in another color. What was it?"

Answer: He wanted a black disco suit until it was pointed out that on the darkened dance floor, his co-star's red dress would make her easier to see than him.

Whose birthday was it?

"Was there ever a recognized composer for the song, 'Happy Birthday To You?'"

Answer: The song was originally written by sisters Mildred and Patty Hill as "Good Morning To You." The words were changed, and the new version was published in 1935.

Former child stars . . . From page I1

Diamond: That's because you were smoking crack. That's totally different. I have more dignity than that. (Note: Bonaduce was arrested for buying crack in 1990.)

Williams: Let me jump in for a second. (Pointing to Diamond) What he's talking about is something we don't hear because the nature of our roles was different. I was trying to be pseudo-hip, (to Bonaduce) you were the wise-ass. (To Garrett) You were the heartthrob. But he was driving the comedy. He was the silly guy.

Diamond: I don't have any stories about hanging out at Michael Jackson's house.

GARRETT. Ex-teen idol.

Heartthrob

I wasn't really the guy everyone wanted on the scene, because I wasn't, like, the heartthrob.

Why have you all stayed in entertainment? A lot of people don't when they grow up.

Garrett: A lot of them didn't want to in the first place. They were forced into it by their families. But I like being an entertainer.

Bonaduce: I swear to God, I'm not joking: I just don't know how to do anything else.

Feldman: I was doing it because it was what my parents told me I had to do. And by the time I was old enough to make a choice not to, everybody in the world knew who I was. So, it was impossible to go work at Taco Bell.

At some point, I had to go 'OK, now I'm going to stand up and I'm going to do this career because I choose to do this career.'

Diamond: If I won the lottery tomorrow and had $300 million . . . I'd still do stand-up and comedy.

Garrett: I don't do what I do because I want people coming up to me and asking for my autograph. I just like doing what I do.

Bonaduce: Without fame, I'm just some 5-foot-6 guy with red hair and freckles. But with fame, I've had sex with some quality women.

Williams: Mine was the opposite. I finally confronted my parents at 11, and I said, "You are standing in the way of my destiny." They finally relented.

Bonaduce: I was playing Atlantic City. I didn't do anything, but they put together this kind of song and comedy act—but I couldn't really sing and I wasn't particularly funny.

Huge lights

My name was up in huge lights. And I turn around and my dad, for some reason, had to take me, and before I can say anything he hits me. I said, 'Why?' And he said, 'Your name? Above Duke Ellington's?'

Imagine what Duke Ellington's dad would have done.

Bonaduce: (Laughs) Yeah, Duke Ellington's dad beat his ass for getting billed below me!

How do you guys feel about making fun of your past?

Williams: There's nothing meanspirited in "Dickie Roberts."

In my opinion, if I can't make fun of myself or have fun with the image and all that stuff, I'd be dead.

Feldman: You can't survive.

Williams: I would be in a looney bin.

Garrett: Just because we use our names, lend our names, that doesn't mean that that's us. It's like a caricature of us, in a certain way. Everything is a performance! AP

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Mariah Carey thrills euphoric Manila crowd

By Rito P. Asilo

DESPITE a ticket given to us by our brother, we thought we weren't going to make it to Mariah Carey's concert. We were glad, though, that we did. We rushed to The Fort at half-past nine, thinking all we'd see would be the tail-end of the concert of the world's biggest-selling female artist (with an astounding 150 million records sold).

Vocal ensemble

We didn't miss much, though, except for the fireworks display. We even caught the performance of the eight-man vocal ensemble, Akafellas, which was given the daunting task of "front-acting" the concert. The boys were initially booed, but won the crowd over in the end with their strong performance.

When Carey finally went onstage, her unmistakably powerful voice sent the crowd into a frenzy. The statuesque (5'10") chanteuse sang "Heartbreaker," looking every inch like how you'd imagine a superstar diva to look—perfect, radiant make-up, fabulous outfit and a never-ending smile meant to charm your pants off. And that voice!

CAREY. Even her band acknowledgment was done with a song.

Haunting ballad

"Hey, Manila!," she shouted to the euphoric crowd, before she latched into "Dreamlover" and "Through The Rain," as she sat on a pink cushion. She followed this with the haunting ballad, "My All." We didn't expect her voice to be that crystal clear! She would occasionally lapse into Minnie Ripperton-style falsettos that sent the crowd shouting, "We love you, Mariah!"

It was one of those very humid nights, and Mariah was sweating throughout her performance. She said, "It's nice and hot out here—and I like that!" When she sang "Can't Take That Away (Mariah's Theme)," from her "Rainbow" album, the moment seemed very personal, as though she was singing to herself.

When she sang "Honey," she lapsed into her now-familiar dance moves that brought the crowd to a dancing tizzy.

After changing her costume (which she did many more times during the performance), she sang the sexy R&B rap, "I Know What You Want," as a duet with rapper Busta Rhymes on the video wall.

Vignettes

"This is about my life," she said, as she introduced a video showing vignettes of her as a hopeful, struggling artist, just three months after high school and dreaming of the big-time.

Even her band acknowledgment was done with a song. This number was a testament to Mariah's vocal prowess, with her

MARIAH/ I3

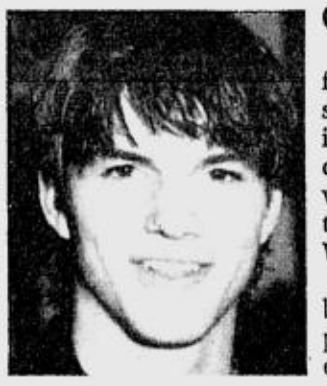
TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Ashton's academic past

By Rito P. Asilo

"WHICH heartthrob has a fraternal twin brother? What course did he take in college?"

Answer: Ashton Kutcher has a fraternal twin named Michael. He majored in biochemical engineering at the University of Iowa but dropped out to pursue modeling.



ASHTON. Has a fraternal twin named Michael.

Sly condition

"Sylvester Stallone sold the rights to his screenplay for 'Rocky' with the condition that he be cast in the title role. Who was the actor the producers wanted for the role?"

Answer: They wanted Ryan O'Neal for the part, and offered Stallone $150,000 to agree to their casting preference. Sly won out in the end.

Color scheme

"John Travolta was unforgettable as the white suit-wearing Tony Manero in John Badham's 'Saturday Night Fever.' But Travolta wanted his disco costume in another color. What was it?"

Answer: He wanted a black disco suit until it was pointed out that on the darkened dance floor, his co-star's red dress would make her easier to see than him.

Whose birthday was it?

"Was there ever a recognized composer for the song, 'Happy Birthday To You?'"

Answer: The song was originally written by sisters Mildred and Patty Hill as "Good Morning To You." The words were changed, and the new version was published in 1935.

Former child stars . . .

From page I1

Diamond: That's because you were smoking crack. That's totally different. I have more dignity than that. (Note: Bonaduce was arrested for buying crack in 1990.)

Williams: Let me jump in for a second. (Pointing to Diamond) What he's talking about is something we don't hear because the nature of our roles was different. I was trying to be pseudo-hip, (to Bonaduce) you were the wise-ass. (To Garrett) You were the heartthrob. But he was driving the comedy. He was the silly guy.

Diamond: I don't have any stories about hanging out at Michael Jackson's house.

GARRETT. Ex-teen idol.

Heartthrob

I wasn't really the guy everyone wanted on the scene, because I wasn't, like, the heartthrob.

Why have you all stayed in entertainment? A lot of people don't when they grow up.

Garrett: A lot of them didn't want to in the first place. They were forced into it by their families. But I like being an entertainer.

Bonaduce: I swear to God, I'm not joking: I just don't know how to do anything else.

Feldman: I was doing it because it was what my parents told me I had to do. And by the time I was old enough to make a choice not to, everybody in the world knew who I was. So, it was impossible to go work at Taco Bell.

At some point, I had to go 'OK, now I'm going to stand up and I'm going to do this career because I choose to do this career.'

Diamond: If I won the lottery tomorrow and had $300 million . . . I'd still do stand-up and comedy.

Garrett: I don't do what I do because I want people coming up to me and asking for my autograph. I just like doing what I do.

Bonaduce: Without fame, I'm just some 5-foot-6 guy with red hair and freckles. But with fame, I've had sex with some quality women.

Williams: Mine was the opposite. I finally confronted my parents at 11, and I said, "You are standing in the way of my destiny." They finally relented.

Bonaduce: I was playing Atlantic City. I didn't do anything, but they put together this kind of song and comedy act—but I couldn't really sing and I wasn't particularly funny.

Huge lights

My name was up in huge lights. And I turn around and my dad, for some reason, had to take me, and before I can say anything he hits me. I said, 'Why?' And he said, 'Your name? Above Duke Ellington's?'

Imagine what Duke Ellington's dad would have done.

Bonaduce: (Laughs) Yeah, Duke Ellington's dad beat his ass for getting billed below me!

How do you guys feel about making fun of your past?

Williams: There's nothing meanspirited in "Dickie Roberts."

In my opinion, if I can't make fun of myself or have fun with the image and all that stuff, I'd be dead.

Feldman: You can't survive.

Williams: I would be in a looney bin.

Garrett: Just because we use our names, lend our names, that doesn't mean that that's us. It's like a caricature of us, in a certain way. Everything is a performance! *AP*

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Mariah Carey thrills euphoric Manila crowd

From page I2

musical introductions to musicians sounding like love songs.

At one point, she stopped and burst into a giggle and said, "There's some kind of bug on the stage and it's scaring me!" She also brought Trey Lorenz out to sing the Jackson classic, "I'll Be There."

She bade her loving Manila crowd goodbye with the hip-hop, gospel number, "Make It Happen," during which people chanted the chorus that made the infectious song a rousing number. For her perfunctory encore, she sang the Pinoy favorite, "Without You," her first single, "Vision of Love," and finally, "Hero."

Diva ways

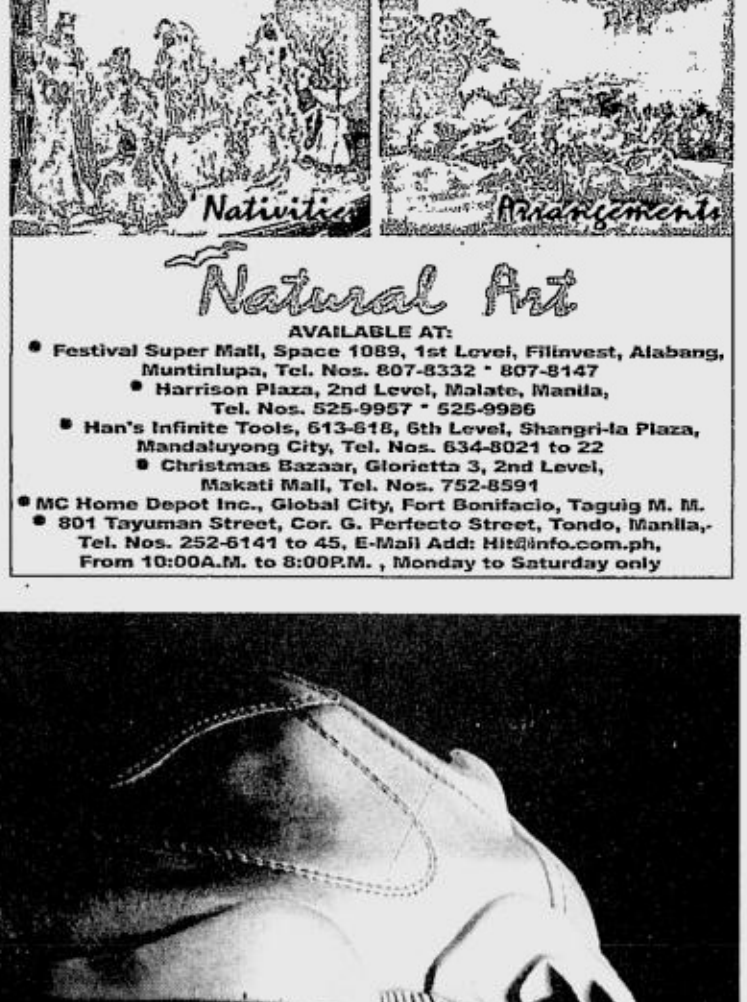
We hear amusing stories about Carey's high-maintenance diva ways, but we forget them when she takes centerstage and electrifies her audience with the flash, pomp and pageantry of her concert, and her vocal bravado.

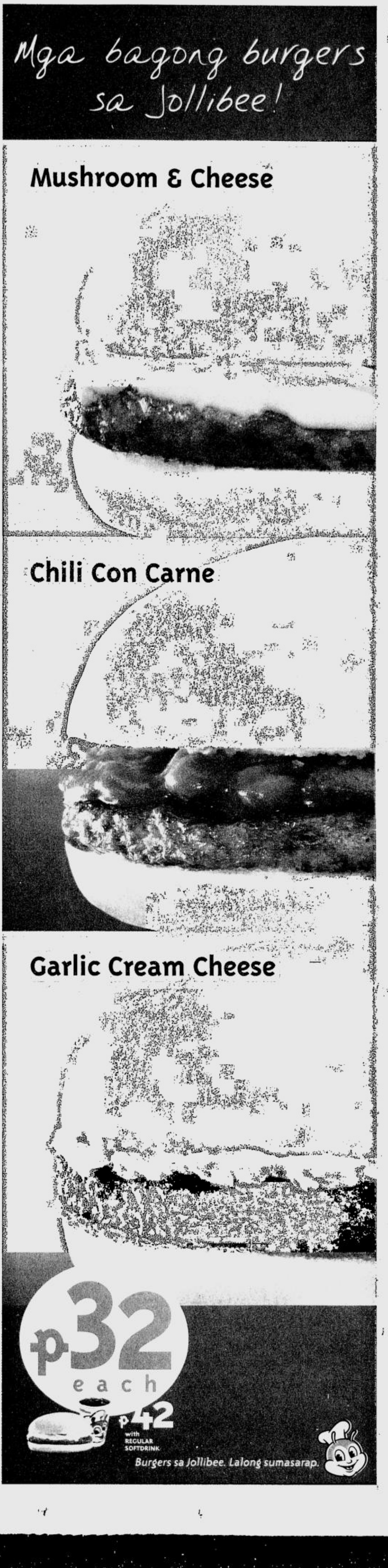
In upbeat numbers, her dance grooves were simple, prompting someone seated beside us to say, *"Di pala siya magaling sumayaw."*

Mariah's ability to perform live has always been subject to doubt, the "Charmbracelet" tour being one of only a few selected tour performances since she started in the early '90s.

We have always been indifferent to the sappy "Without You." But when she burst into the vocally stagey chorus, her full, clear and affecting voice resonated a genuine sense of urgency and passion, a musical soul that we thought was never there. After 15 songs, we couldn't seem to get enough of Mariah—and we became a believer!

CAREY. Vocal bravado.





Thespic versatility showcased in NVC's 'Stones in His Pockets'

By Nestor U. Torre

WILSON (left) and Williams swiftly shift from one character to another in literally the blink of an eye.

LAST Nov. 21, we caught the premiere performance of New Voice Company's current production, "Stones In His Pockets," at the new Republic of Malate.

We knew that Marie Jones' Olivier Award-winning comedy was a two-actor play. Having acted in some two-person productions in the past, we knew how difficult the acting challenge was, so we looked forward to see Michael Williams and Jamie Wilson's work in the play, under Rito Asilo's astute direction.

Tougher acting challenge

It turned out that "Stones..." posed an even tougher acting challenge than other two-actor plays like "The Owl and the Pussycat," which we once did with Baby Barredo for Repertory Philippines. "Owl" requires its two actors to play only one character each, while "Stones..." has its two players portraying seven different characters apiece!

That's right, in Marie Jones' play, Michael Williams portrays Charlie, a film extra; Simon, First Assistant Director; Clem, the Director; Sean, a young local lad; Caroline Guiovanni, an American film star; Jock, Caroline's security man and Mr. Harkin.

For his part, Jamie Wilson is cast as film extra Jake; Aisling, Third Assistant Director; Mickey, 70 years old; Fin, Sean's friend; John, an accent coach; Dave, a crew member and the Interviewer.

Even more dauntingly, the two actors play all of these characters with no make-up and costume changes! They simply have to rely on their versatility and ability to create a veritable gallery of different characters with swift and economical internal and external adjustments, with the insightful inputs of their director.

Unique groove

Truth to tell, the first few scenes of the play were difficult to figure out. But, after 10 minutes or so, we settled into the play's unique groove, and its thematic points made themselves empathetically clear.

"Stones In His Pockets" is about the filming of a big movie in a small town in Ireland. Two extras, Charlie and Jake, tell the story of what happens when Hollywood "invades" the rural community. Conflicting cultures and clashing expectations make the encounter more confounding—but also ultimately more illuminating—than initially expected.

Only a few actors can do justice to such a demanding production, which requires its two performers to portray numerous members of the film crew *and* residents of the small Irish town.

In Williams and Wilson, the production has found actors who are up to the task at hand, swiftly shifting from one character to another in literally the blink of an eye.

At the curtain call after the play, they take a joint bow, and that's how it should be, because their performances are uniformly strong, and completely interwoven with each other.

Degree of difficulty

A playgoer asked us whether it was essential to the production that only two actors play all those roles. We said we thought so, because it gave the production an unusual "degree of difficulty" that tested its two actors' abilities to their limit, and thus made the show a must-see production for theater lovers who appreciate thespic versatility, depth and range. (Call 896-6695.)

DIGITAL Photoworkshop participants at LRI Business Plaza in Bel-Air.

Going digital

STREET SMART
Mandy Navasero

IF you are addicted to photography, you should go digital now, because doing digital work is a remarkable experience. It is reliable, efficient and less costly compared to standard film camera operations (film processing and printing are expensive).

Initial expenses

However, for digital photography, you need more than a camera, so the initial expenses are substantial. Last Christmas, I gifted myself with a Nikon D100 without lens, which cost a whooping P145,000! But the digital camera takes the lead these days. It automatically turns your images into files ready for enhancement.

Digital photographers need a laptop when shooting outdoors. At the studio, your digital camera can be connected to the computer. You also need a flatbed scanner to print images; a film scanner for negatives or slide films; a drum for large-scale scanning of negatives and slides, and memory cards instead of films.

Fourteen participants from different fields and of various ages registered for our first Digital Photography Workshop.

They are bound by their common love for photography, only this time they have to embrace the new technology that comes with the changing times.

Students

The students are Dennis Concepcion, Dr. Nick Cruz, Rita Festin, Alfredo Gavilo, Princess Misa-Hernandez, Bernardo Laperal, Girlie Ochoa-Lapez, Roberto Lim, Aida Sevilla-Mendoza, Vjay Peranca, Dong Rosal, Carrey Salamante, Dr. Mylene Olivarez-Santos and Rissa Singson.

Workshop schedule

The Mandy Navasero Digital Photoworkshop will run every first Saturday and the succeeding Saturdays and Sundays of each month from December to March, 9 a.m.to 5 p.m. at Rm. 227, LRI Business Plaza. with guest lecturer David Hanson. Sponsors are Fuji Film, Avenue Photo Supply and Apperture. For inquiries call 522-5189, 522-1905 or 0916-7060130.

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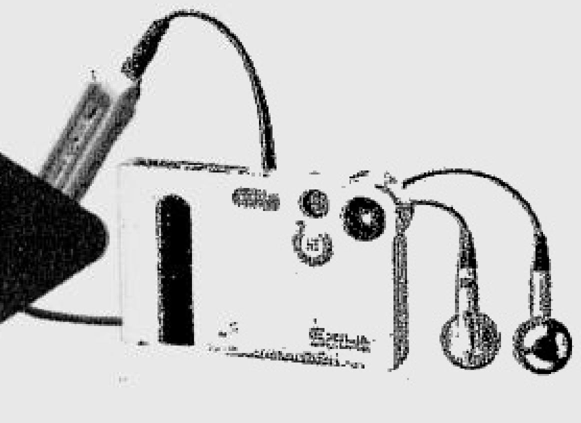

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Raya reigns Elite! page L2

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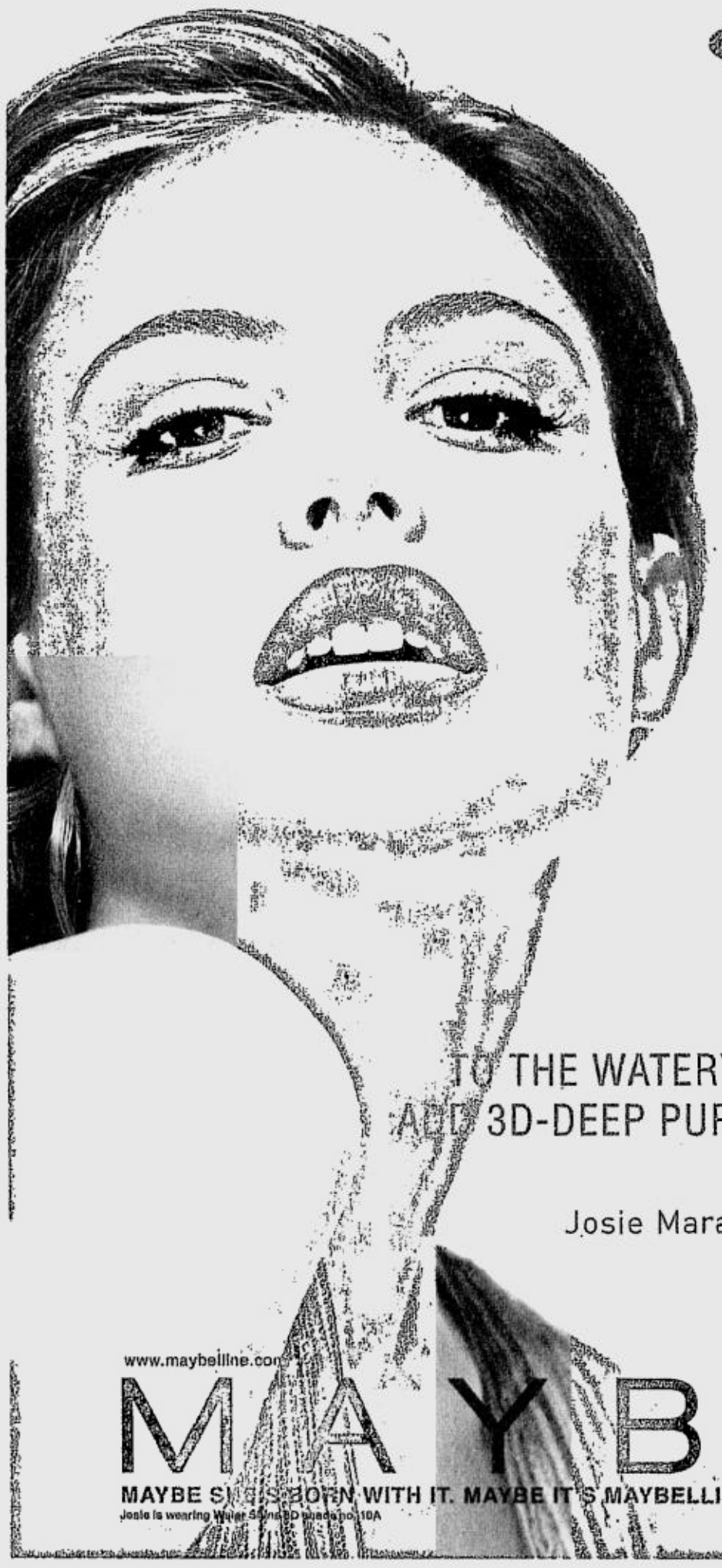
24 hours with Mandy Moore page M1



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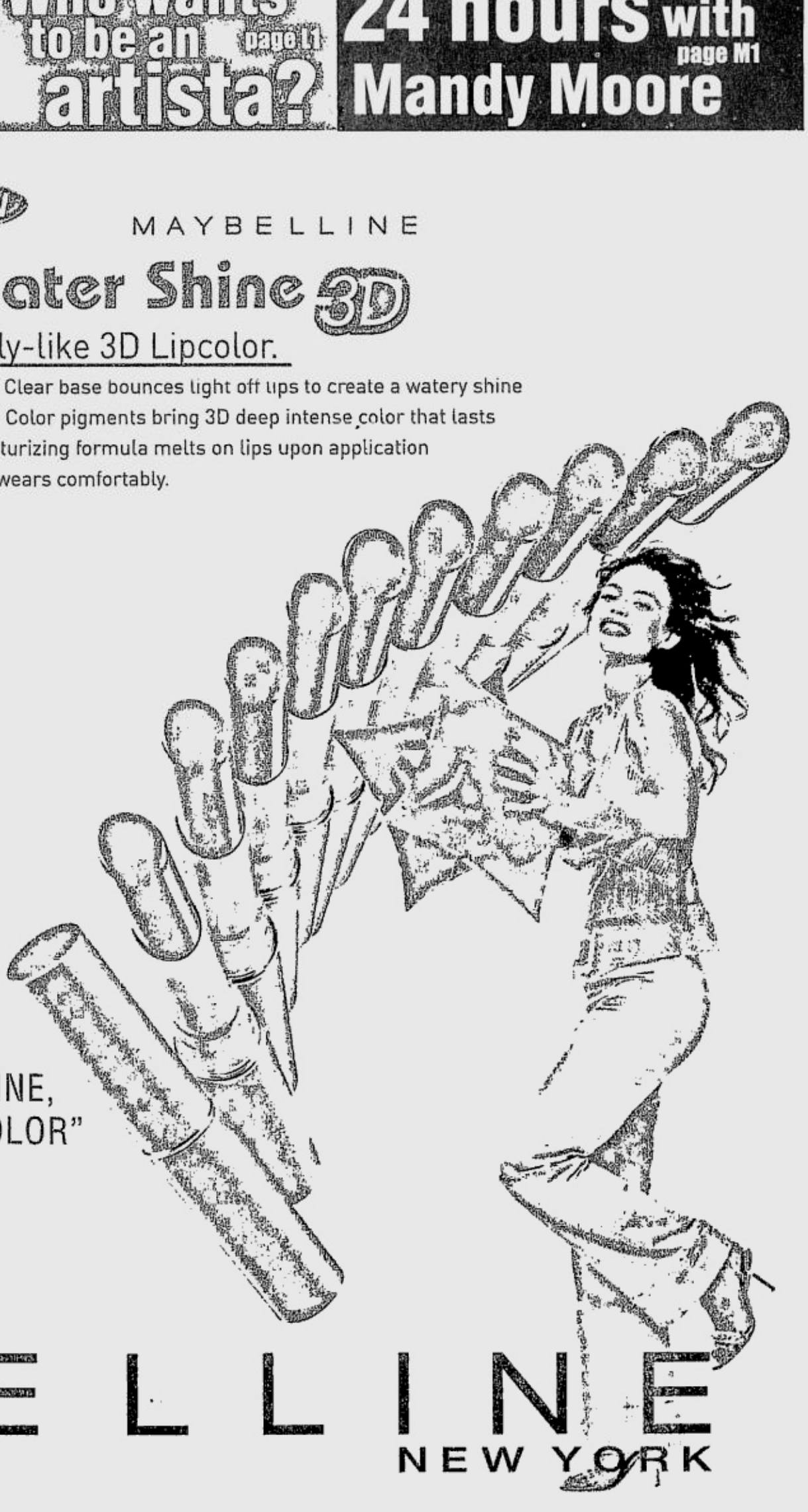

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Josie is wearing Water Shine 3D Lipcolor in Nude, pp. 10A

Sleight of hand

How to disappear, blissfully, on a weekend

By Martin Valdes

ONE night, many years ago, I sat underneath a midnight sky and composed the greatest love letter ever written. I was sitting in the middle of a polo field, alone except for my thoughts, reading the romantic masterpiece I had just penned. Less than a thousand words but infinite in emotion, it expressed every ounce of passion I could muster from my young soul— the urgent desires of adolescence, the frantic need for affection, vows of steely devotion. This was the Gospel according to Love, a guaranteed knee-buckler that would have any woman who was literate swooning. Except ... I did not have anyone to give it to. Later, I was informed that there had been a brief meteor shower that night. I had not noticed.

A decade has passed since. Time, like a clumsy thief, has left a trail of memories and moral lessons that he dropped by the roadside in his haste to abscond with my youth. I look older and I certainly feel older, which confirms that I must be older. The other half of the maxim is not as certain; I can only hope I am wiser as well. It has been a decade of growth and deterioration, of experimentation and solution, of success and disappointment. It has been 10 years of foraging through the jungle of Life, searching for miracles and meaning, refusing to sleep for fear of missing momentous events that will clarify everything. It has been a search for magic.

Magic is that which should *not* be explained, only experienced. When I witness acts of performance magic— card tricks, vanishing acts, escapes— the delight I feel is matched only by my sense of curiosity as to how the magician pulled it off. Yet I know that once I am privy to this information, once I know the mechanics of operating the illusion, the luster of the act will fade away. What was once magic will become simply a science that one man knows and another man doesn't. If David Blaine explained his phenomenal illusionary performance in detail after each show, we'd have everybody levitating across Metro Manila—still pissing on the sidewalk but from a higher trajectory. That's not magic, just tragic.

But there are other forms of magic that are beyond the capabilities of a single man. In the realm of abstract experience we consider Life, Love, Nature, Truth, Happiness, and Hope as forms of magic. These are the enchanted concepts that inspire evolution and poetry, that pave the path of stars and engineer the composition of animal cells. This is magic that makes us human by allowing us brushes with inexplicable divinity. And this is the kind of magic I have been seeking. I am looking out for Big Magic, miracles of nature, true love that will ignite the hearths, and events of astounding proportion. I wait with eagerness, because I know these will change my life, or give it meaning, or at least a general sense of direction.

Shared longing

Meeting people from all walks of life, from all the corners of this mad world, I have come to realize that we share a longing for magic. Whether they are hardened backpackers trekking down the slopes of virginal Palawan, or slippery businessmen navigating the hardened pockets of corporate America, everybody wants a piece of magical pie. In Kenya, I met a man who fervently wished to move to the United States and watch a live baseball game, preferably featuring the New York Mets. In Florida, a friend of mine was preparing to propose to his girlfriend. I was desperately trying to apply for graduate school in Australia. We were men from three continents bound by a mutual yearning for Big Magic.

It seems only logical that we search for Big Magic in big places, in locations and events that command attention and recall immediately to the surface of our memories. We imagine that excessive circumstances—the larger the venue, the more populous the event, the more narcotics are available, the more frenzied the partying, the longer the duration—will result in moments of euphoria and catharsis. This is the equation I lived my life by in the elusive search for magic. If I'm going to pull a big f**king rabbit, I'm going to need a big f**king hat, right?

Most Filipinos would understand, I think. It is inherent in our culture to pursue the magical, and the dramatic has always appealed to the Filipino. We are enamored of larger-than-life characters, of distant foreign shores with intricate names, of events saturated with music and color. The way we admire movie actors borders on idolatry. The way we propagate trends (especially those originating from other countries) reveals our need to be part of the bigger picture. Even the most somber of occasions such as visits to the cemetery manage to smack of festivity. A perfect example of our desperate search for magic can be found in our penchant for peaceful revolution. The apparent success of the first Edsa revolution spawned a questionable tradition of taking to those same streets every time there is a social disturbance. It is a spectacle, to be sure, but doesn't a another revolution mean that the last one didn't *really* work? We may wear the asphalt off our highways before that question is resolved.

What if ...?

I can't say I've had much success locating magic. But it *is* there, this I can attest to. It resonates in my carriage, like the echo of an old song or the fleeting remnants of a dream. I am happy with my life; I just can't seem to pinpoint when and where this magic occurs. And then I recall an old story of Elijah the prophet, who failed to find God in cataclysmic events, and instead found Him in "a still, small voice." I'm not as pious as I should be, but once in awhile the old Catholic training proves to be very convenient.

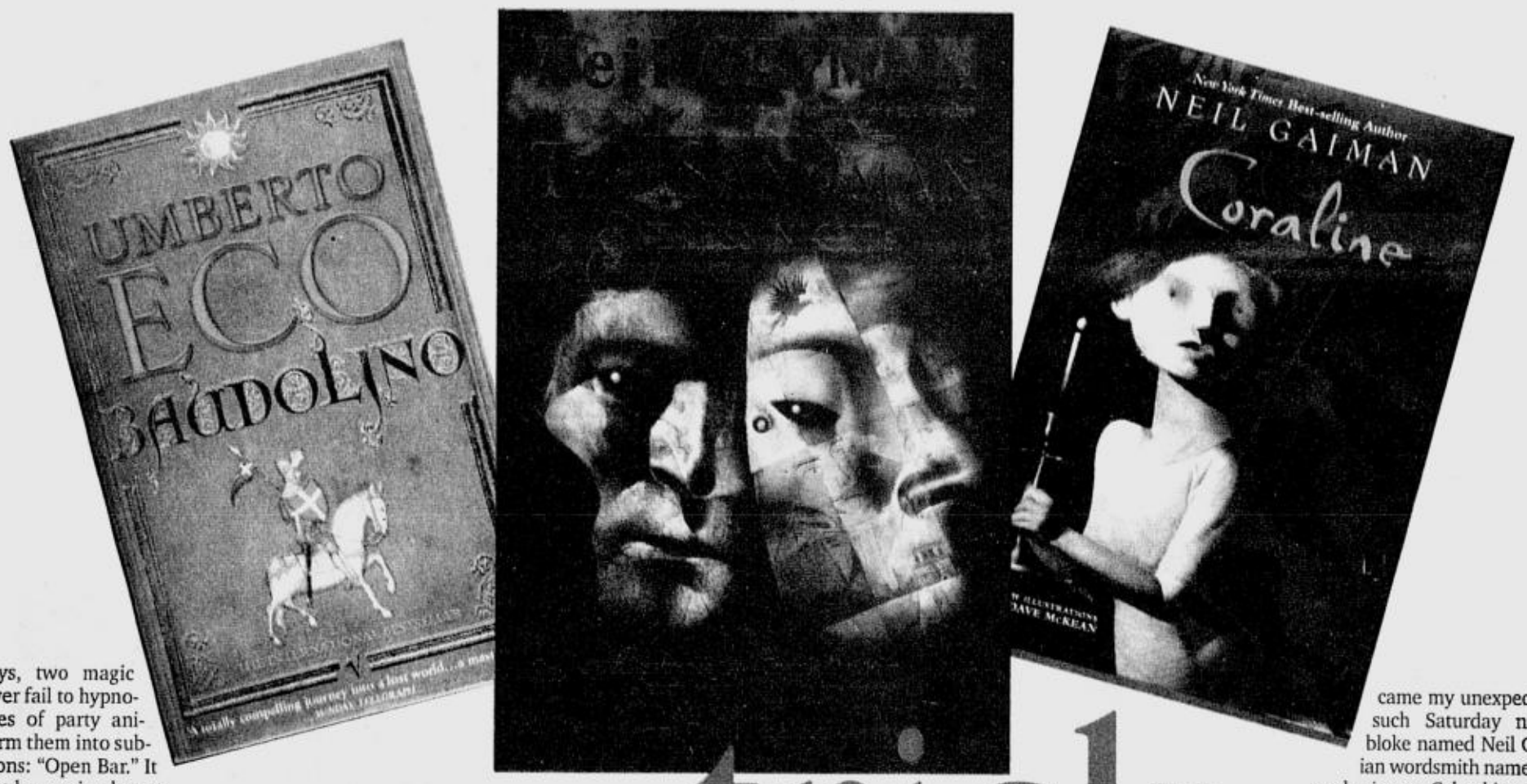
Perhaps I've been searching for magic with the wrong dimensions. I have failed to consider is the possibility of an inverse relationship between magic and its chosen geographic. What if the extraordinary happened under the most ordinary and fleeting of circumstances? What if the moments that changed the world took place while no one noticed?

It must be so. Like Life playing a sleight of hand, sunset turns into twilight in the briefest of moments, separated only by a few seconds of bleeding horizon. Social change starts with a single citizen influencing another, although the instance of conversion cannot even be tabulated. Friendship grows into love over a period of time, but the actual maturity of the emotion can be catalyzed by the most mundane of exchanges. It is in these little packets, hidden in the folds of our everyday lives, that we discover the greatest surprises. If I am able to hone this new perception, if I am able to develop sensitivity for these anonymous, ephemeral instants and arrest the moment for all eternity, then I think I will witness magic.

A few months ago, I was with a good friend and we sat on the shores of an unpopulated beach in near darkness. As we conversed, a shooting star tore through the freckled face of eve like a golden tear on fire, and then disappeared. I was stunned into silence, but my friend had missed the whole thing. "That's okay," I consoled him, "you can catch the next act." Any second now...

For comments, e-mail the author at lasengnomad@yahoo.com

Solitaire trick



By Tals Diaz

THESE days, two magic words never fail to hypnotize hordes of party animals and transform them into submissive automatons: "Open Bar." It always amazes me how a simple text message with these words becomes a virtual *abracadabra* that lure otherwise perfectly functioning human beings to the designated watering hole, even on a weeknight. In fact, anyone running for public office could cut their vote-buying budget in half simply by pledging whole nights of free bottles periodically, starting now.

I should know. I am part of the Pavlovian pack that salivates at the toll of happy hour. Yet, as I have learned in a past marketing class, I also know there is no such thing as a free lunch (or in this case, free booze). So as I grab my free scotch, I am fully aware of one quite painful price, and that is having to deal with agonizing small talk. That is for me the most odious thing about having a nightlife less ordinary, the need to develop this little skill of talking to acquaintances who have this habit of asking the same freaking questions every time I run into them.

Don't get me wrong, I do live up to my prescribed Aquarian attributes of friendliness and sociability. Yet sometimes, I prefer a simple "Hello, how are you?" to a futile attempt at conversation by the bar, akin to squeezing soda from a stone. I really don't enjoy being harangued repeatedly with platitudinous, hackneyed questions. I feel as if I devolve from social butterfly to anti-social moth when I try to "gimmick talk" with certain people. Shooting the breeze then makes me feel like shooting myself in the head.

I recently asked close friends about their most abhorred small-talk lines. The runaway winners were: "Who are you here with?" "Did you just arrive?" "What are you doing now?" And the most hated of all: "Who are you seeing now?" Sometimes, I consider throwing them off with absurd replies just to make the night more interesting. In the tradition of Mad magazine's "Snappy Answers to Stupid Questions," here's that fantasy conversation:

"Who are you here with?"

"My split personalities."

"Did you just get here?"

"*Kanina pa* ... I was just avoiding you."

"What are you doing now?"

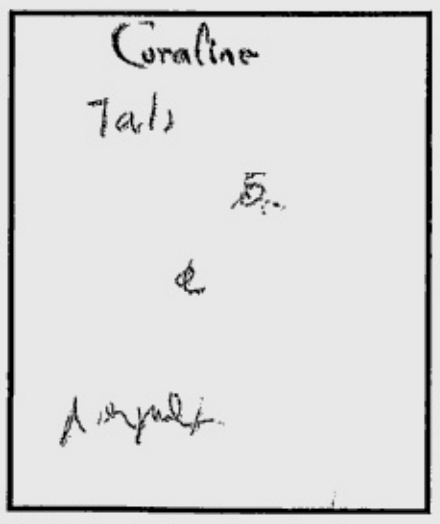
"I'm glad you asked! I'm building a reservoir for an impoverished village in Angola while learning the *Alibata*, the Argentinian tango, and macramé on the side. And you?"

"Who are you seeing now?"

"Another drink and I'll be seeing two of you."

Bizarre as it may sound, I actually wish more people would dish out cool, eccentric lines like, "Hey, I have a Sufi test for you. Describe a cube in the desert." Or hit me with funny anecdotes and jokes off the bat. Or even any Zen koan, like "So ... what *really* is the sound of one hand clapping?" I'd happily reply, "Finish your drink and let's discuss that over dimsum at Hap Chan."

Due to a recent bout with small talk toxicity, I have been hit by Saturday night fever of a very different strain. The most apparent symptom is the desire to be alone for straight weekends. Ironically, the deliberate effort of locking myself up makes me feel more free. I end up enjoying the company of the one person that I neglect when I'm out: myself. On the very first day of that affliction, I shut off my cell phone, shut myself in, and savored my solitude.



NO illusions! Gaiman's authentic autograph. Rat included.

Cool flicks and clicks

Even if I knew that the hordes of twentysomethings were out partying that night, there was nowhere else I would rather have been. One call for a large Pepperoni Crunch pizza, mojos and a Coke from Shakey's and my Saturday night was set. I turned on my lava lamp, and prepared to play all the CDs that I wanted, volume turned up and needing no theme, rhyme or reason for the sequence, just my audio stream of consciousness. Thus I jammed to Pearl Jam and then, lulled by The Cocteau Twins, became enslaved to Audioslave and explored Underworld, chilled along with Bebel Gilberto and danced to The Spice Girls (wait...did I just publicly admit that?).

Playing audio Russian Roulette also made me go over my DVD collection again, especially since hearing a song by Massive Attack reminded me that I actually had a rare copy of "Pi," the mathematical thrill pill directed by Darren Aronofsky. The night proceeded to become a sweet cycle of discovery and rediscovery, as one finding led to another—"Bladerunner," "The Endless Summer" and, um..."Pretty in Pink" (did I just publicly admit that, too?). Then I fished out the absolute marvel that changed my childhood, "Labyrinth," a.k.a. the movie that made me lust after David Bowie playing the Goblin King. Watching it yet again left me in a state of wonder on another level: why hadn't Jennifer Connelly discovered the joy of plucking her eyebrows?

Cooler cliques

Yet what has got to be my absolute, favorite reason for choosing to be a recluse on standard party nights is, I can take pleasure in the extreme end of small talk: great words.

Three wonderful guys suddenly became my unexpected "dates" one such Saturday night: a British bloke named Neil Gaiman, an Italian wordsmith named Umberto Eco, and *mi amor Colombiano*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez. I was the luckiest girl alive. I take it as no coincidence that the latest works of these authors are now selling at local bookshops (where I could spend a hundred years of solitude in): "Endless Nights" by Gaiman, "Baudolino" by Eco, and the English translation of Garcia Marquez's biography, "*Vivir para Contarla* (Live to Tell)." Even just seeing their names— like guys hanging out together— on my bookshelf made me feel as if I was in the hippest little corner of the world.

Choose to recluse

My humble sojourn has given me an understanding of why certain famous people decide to detach themselves from the world, to shack up in some hut in a secret beach or mountain retreat. There's a real possibility that I would do the same in the future—split from the densely populated world for a while to be alone and yet blissful in my own company. Perhaps J.D. Salinger, another one of my life shapers and himself an infamous recluse, is having the grooviest time holed up in his room with boxes of chocolate, red wine and a whole stack of CDs and DVDs. Who would want to entertain nosy interviewers when you've got all that?

Finally, the best part about chilling out alone is finding my balance before heading back to the real world. Alexander Pope had it right on when he penned his "Ode on Solitude:"

"Blest, who can unconcernd'ly find
Hours, days and years slide soft away...
In health of body, peace of mind
Sound sleep at night; study and ease,
together mixt; sweet recreation..."

Ahhh ... solitude is sweet. It feels great to disappear.

For comments, e-mail the author at inca_orange@yahoo.com

Barbarians in our midst

ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCAT

Many frat men once considered rebellious teenagers are now in government, still looking out for one another, and still searching for rival asses to kick

by Lex

I REALLY admire Jinggoy Estrada. Anyone who has a 38-inch waistline and still insists on being an action star must really have *cojones grandes*! He may not be able to run faster than a speeding bullet or leap over tall buildings in a single bound, but he obviously has intestinal fortitude. Proof is that he smacked the head of Richard Gomez at the Star Olympics basketball game. Imagine, before an opponent with the imposing physique of a Greek god, the portly Jinggoy was unfazed.

My amateur psychoanalysis of the incident was that Jinggoy had acted in such a way because he couldn't help it; he was a product of his environment. Typecast in roles that let him gun down the bad guys and win the fair maiden in the end, fans treated him like an action star. And like magic he began to feel like FPJ, even if his figure was slightly more robust.

Many others have experienced this change from simple boy to tough adult, because of their environment. A perfect example would be a young, promising student put through a fraternity initiation. All it takes is a few months of torture and he instantly transforms into a vicious, club-wielding Neanderthal.

The culture of violence begins when a neophyte or plebe is initiated. Regardless of what creative self-justification one employs, it is indisputable that once a person has dished out pain on, or received it from, another human being, he is changed forever. When you're beaten up by people you cannot see because you've been blindfolded, the seeds of a violent future are planted. And when it's your turn to hold that paddle and whack the behind of someone who is not allowed to fight back—that future may as well be sealed.

Blood lust

Waging war against "enemies," something that's part and parcel of the fraternity lifestyle, is usually the only thing that satisfies the craving for blood. Cloaked in noble ideals of academic excellence, student leadership, and the rule of law, many fraternities need very little provocation to turn themselves into military units, ready to kill or be killed. The most common instigator in frat rumbles is the infamous "*titigan* scenario": where "brods" valiantly stand up to defend their honor because of the "gross disrespect" relayed by an evil stare.

To unite a random selection of people and make them feel like they are one, most frats implant disdain for a common enemy, usually other frats. Hatred is, after all, as strong a bond as love. Plus, a feeling of elitism, a we're-hot-shit-you're-all-crap attitude, is instilled. Like Hitler did with his Nazis, the leaders dehumanize opponents by constantly vilifying them till every member feels compelled to slaughter and annihilate the rivals.

The biggest paradox is the modus operandi for frat wars: several members of one group jump a single member of another. This is the most cowardly way to pick a fight, a practice that speaks volumes about the "courage" of these so-called tough guys. If men must settle differences through a fist fight, they should find the most honorable way to do this like they did in the Coppola classic, "The Outsiders." Each gang chose one member to represent them and they settled the score one on one, like real men.

Justifications

I've heard all the justifications before: physical pain dished out on a group promotes togetherness, communication, courage, a sense of accomplishment. Most important, a neophyte is taught unquestioning respect for his "elders" and the group's traditions. Surely running in an adventure race or cycling up to Baguio can accomplish the same thing without having to subject another human being to a near-death experience? One fatal flaw in the logic is that respect can neither be taught nor demanded, it can only be earned.

The cycle is an old one: Someone dies in a frat war or initiation. Everyone tiptoes around each other for awhile, making sure to keep their noses clean. The media goes haywire. Then slowly, people forget—until the next death, that is.

This isn't just the problem of idiotic kids releasing aggression. These people once discounted as rebellious teenagers are now our senators, our congressmen, our military officers, our judges—the backbone of our society. They take this tradition of standing up for "brods" through thick or thin, right or wrong, into their policy-making process. Thus, we are where we are, which is nowhere, hoping that the system will miraculously change someday.

Ironically, frat men call people without affiliations to any society, barbarians. Funny how what is sane and insane can change, depending on your point of view.

For comments, e-mail the author at swak@info.com.ph

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no.3477, Series of 2003

Vanishing acts

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

AS CHOPPERS hovered the latitude of Neverland in the pursuit of a certain pasty pop star, I was snug in my room, reading my old journals and dusting off my CD collection. Those side interests had sadly chomped the big one when I discovered the joys of blogging and free MP3 plantations a couple years ago. Needless to say, the return trip was like going through a revolving door of memories. Cranking up the nostalgia-Brighton circa 2001—"Since I Left You" by the Avalanches—I leafed through my most recent scrapbook and proceeded to highlight several noteworthy entries.

I first dug out back-to-back pages I had written in high-voltage Spanish. These marked a birthday I spent in Colombia, elegantly wasted on *aguardiente* and sunburned like a popsicle in hell. Next, I reread what I had scribbled about wanting to become Viscount Dan Macmillan, wild twentysomething heir to the Macmillan & Co. publishing dynasty. He was my hero from 1998-99 because I had envied his collection of hideously expensive Japanese denims and his proximity to Jade Jagger. Finally, I skimmed through a list of naggingly familiar quotes, which proved I had a brain built for brilliance, after all:

"The thing always happens that you really believe in; and the belief in a thing makes it happen." –Frank Lloyd Wright, architect

"Charm is getting the answer yes without asking a clear question."

–Albert Camus, French philosopher, novelist, dramatist

"Never trust a big butt and a smile." –Bell, Biv, DeVoe, "Poison"

The last one drove home that Sunday kind of yikes. I couldn't believe I quoted those dorky New Edition alumni. What on earth was I thinking? Better yet, whatever happened to Bell, Biv, and freakin' DeVoe?

Old names, new thrills

Like the art of taking a felt-tip pen to a journal, not a few once-cool pop commodities have been shown the trapdoor throughout time. Late last century, droves of youngsters flocked to worship Hanson, especially the really pretty middle one. But due to money mismanagement and the onslaught of puberty, the trio quickly Mmm-bopped their way to the entertainment ghetto occupied by the cast of "Saved By The Bell," Vanilla Ice, and Spice Girls. Unfortunately, contentment is the enemy of invention, so it seems that music superstars and similar icons were never meant to achieve the everlasting chic of a crisp white shirt.

Snapping back to reality, I wasn't going to allow my handmade scrapbooks to take the same karmic ride as yesterday's' boy bands or those stupid little armpit bags. My brief peek at the past didn't handicap me; rather, it spurred me to jump-start a new volume and record more quasi-intelligent drivel about my current pop culture obsessions. I started by keeping track of the crisis in Georgia, which was apparently a) a country whose capital was b) not Atlanta. Those were golden nuggets right there, so it was a great introduction. I then proceeded to turbo-cram more jet-lagged sentiments about Julian Opie (the artist who did "The Best of Blur" album cover in 2000), my grocery list of hardcover books, Mark Ronson's new CD "Here Comes the Fuzz," and a dream hitchhiking trip around Dubrovnik, Croatia. It was crucial that these thoughts, no matter how frivolous, were logged. I know that my journal would manifest itself someday as a precious traveling laboratory of ideas and recapture the magic of old times.

Where are they now?

Youth culture hinges on the search for new thrills, but looking back is fun once in a while. Personally, I can't move on without crossing out some things on my to-do list. I grew up with television as a nanny and I often wondered about what happened to the cast when a TV series got the heave-ho. High on my list is answering the immortal question, "Where are they now?" I imagine that most of them have half the hair now, but as a tribute to our generation's formative years, let's bow our heads and remember those who vanished in the Bermuda Triangle known as Classic TV.

Beverly Hills, 90210

BRIAN AUSTIN GREEN
As: David Silver
Born: July 15, 1973
As: Brian Peter Green
Last seen: as Sean in the "Found and Lost" episode of "The Twilight Zone" in 2002. Most recently, he played Drew Hesler in the 2003 ABC TV movie "This Time Around."

TORI SPELLING
As: Donna Marie Martin
Born: May 16, 1973
As: Victoria Davey Spelling
Last seen: as Alex Monday in 2001's "Scary Movie 2." In 2004, she is set to appear in "The Help," a WB comedy with Antonio Sabato Jr. and Al Santos.

LUKE PERRY
As: Dylan Michael McKay
Born: Oct. 11, 1966
As: Coy Luther Perry III
Last seen: as Prisoner #00C966 Jeremiah Cloutier in episodes 34-43 of "Oz." Together with Dom De Louise and Brad Pitt, he was a judge in "Pet Star" episode 27 "A Pet Star Halloween" which aired on Oct. 31, 2003.

SHANNEN DOHERTY
As: Brenda Walsh
Born: April 12, 1971
As: Shannen Maria Walsh
Last seen: hosting "Scare Tactics," a Sci-Fi Channel spook prank show in 2003.

JASON PRIESTLEY
As: Brandon Walsh
Born: Aug. 28, 1969
As: Jason Bradford Priestley
Last seen: as Tony the gigolo in the campy melodrama "Die Mommie Die!" which opened the eighth Seattle Lesbian and Gay Film Festival and is the final film in this year's Sundance Film Series. He also played Carter Tibbits in the "Every Picture Tells a Story" episode of "8 Simple Rules for Dating My Teenage Daughter" in 2003.

GABRIELLE CARTERIS
As: Andrea Zuckerman
Born: Jan. 2, 1961
As: Gabrielle Anne Carteris
Last seen: playing herself in the WB's "The Surreal Life" in 2003.

JENNIE GARTH
As: Kelly Marlene Taylor
Born: April 3, 1972
As: Jennifer Eve Garth
Last seen: as Valerie Tyler on the WB's "What I Like About You" with Amanda Bynes.

IAN ZIERING
As: Steve Sanders
Born: March 30, 1964
As: Ian Andrew Ziering
Last heard: as the voice of Harry Osborn in MTV's computer animated "Spider-Man."

Doogie Howser, MD

NEIL PATRICK HARRIS
As: Doogie Howser, MD
Born: June 16 ,1973
As: Neil Patrick Harris
Last heard: as the voice of Peter Parker / Spider-Man on MTV's computer animated Spider-Man series
Last seen: as Peter Corman in the "Monster's Brawl" episode of NBC's "Boomtown." Before that, he was Lance in 2002's "Undercover Brother."

MAX CASELLA
As: Vinnie Delpino
Born June 6, 1967
As: Max Deitch
Last seen: as Benny Fazio in the "Whitecaps" episode of "The Sopranos," Dec. 8, 2002. This particular episode won a 2003 Emmy for "Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series."

Small Wonder

JERRY SUPIRAN
As: Jamie Lawson
Born: March 21, 1973
As: Jerry Supiran
Last seen: as Anderson in the "Pigskin" episode of "Mr. Belvedere" in 1988.

TIFFANY BRISETTE
As: Vicki the Robot
Born: December 26, 1974
As: Tiffany Marie Brisette
Last seen: in the "Heather the Class" episode of "Parker Lewis Can't Lose" in 1991.

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THE ROCK: Atom Henares, the legend behind NU 107

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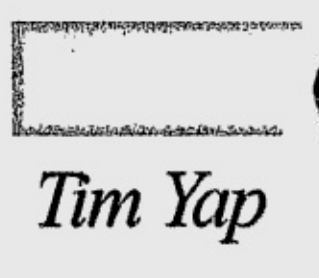


Tim Yap

NEW ROCK!

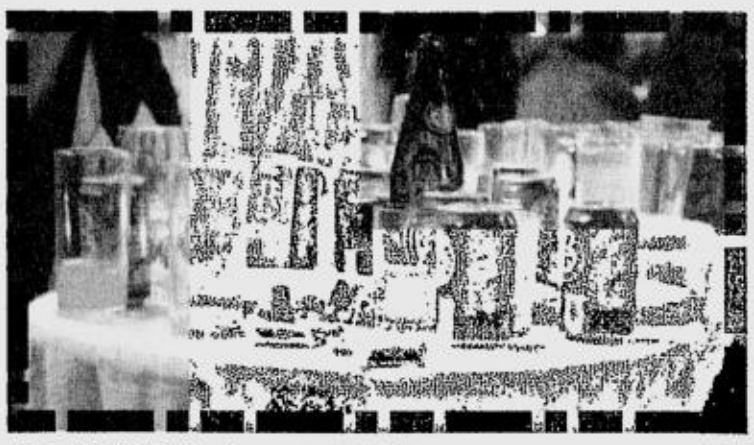
JOHN Lloyd Cruz is a rocker, beat that.

The image that sticks to my head as I recall the NU Rock Awards 2003 is that of myself chit chatting with rock legend Joey "Pepe" Smith while soap star John Lloyd Cruz was asking for his autograph.

Of course, there were other "high"-lights—Mylene Dizon in her "barely" there top hugging guitarist of the year, her beau Ira Cruz, and those French kissing babes Andrea del Rosario and

ROCK.../ K2

ROCK PARTYPHILES. Scene icons Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura with 'it' artist Kiko Escora at the VIP area



BOOZE BUZZ. Here's to more Red Horse

BIRDS OF THE SAME FEATHER. A rare moment with Atom, Ronnie and Danby Henares after the NU Rock Awards

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Theme Of Alberta TONE ALBERTA
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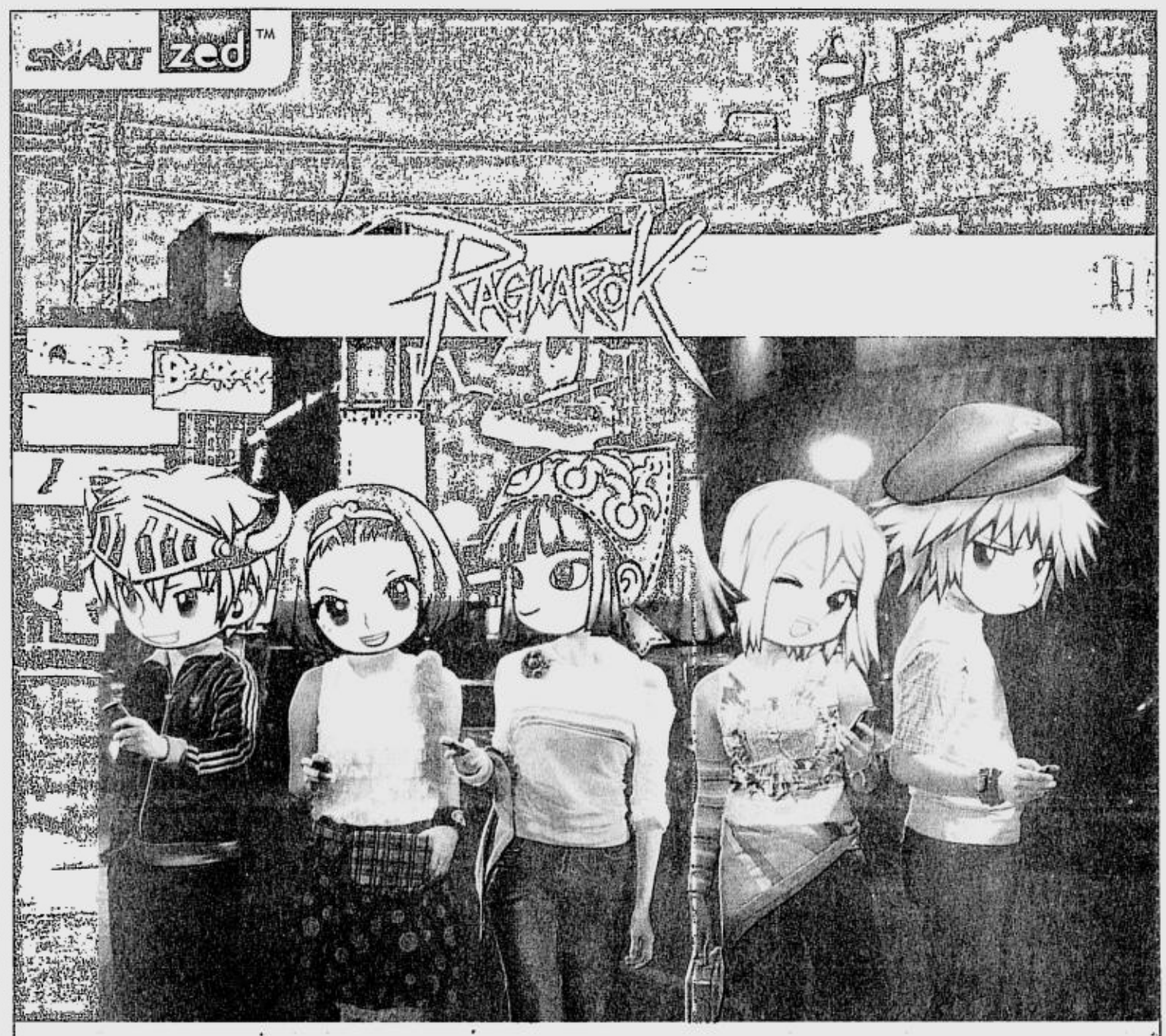

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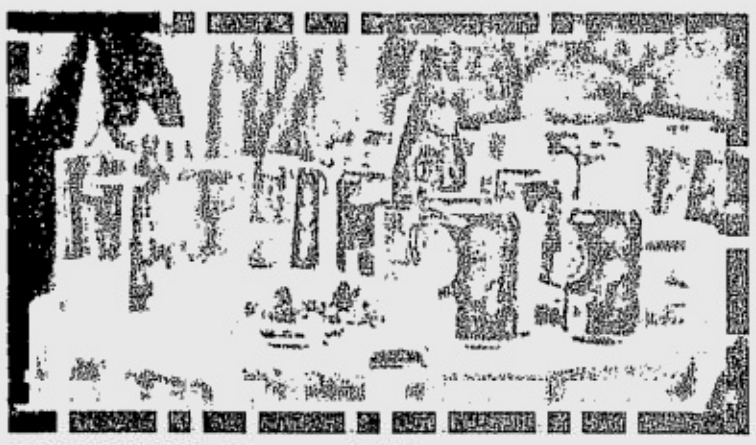

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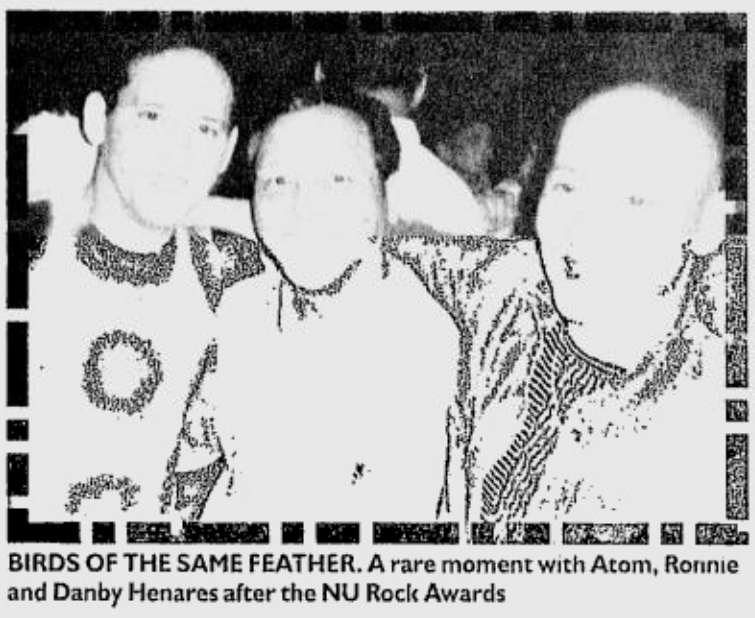

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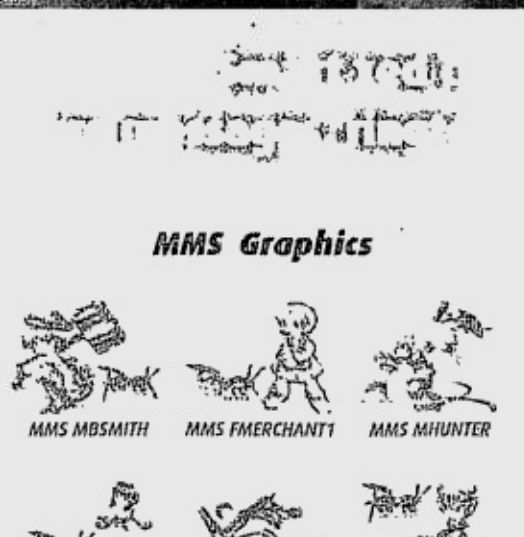

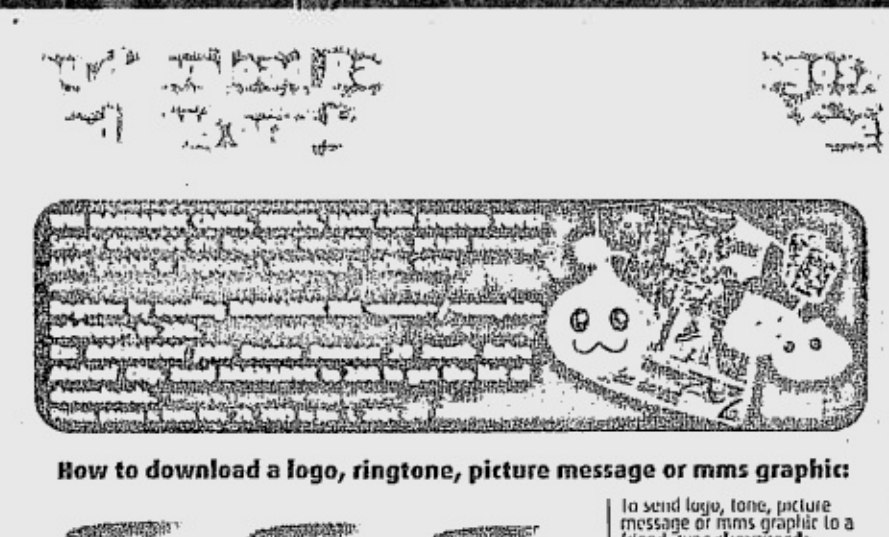

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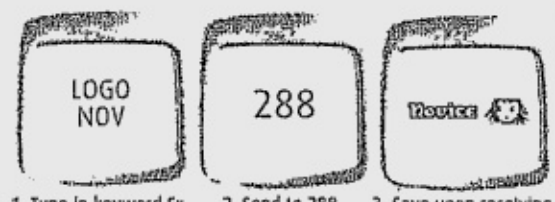

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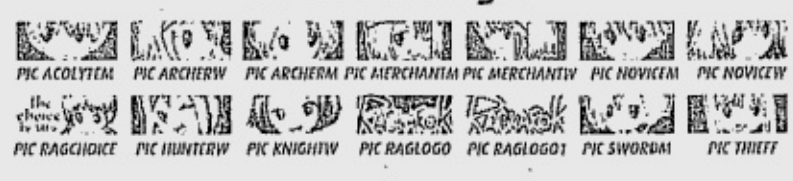

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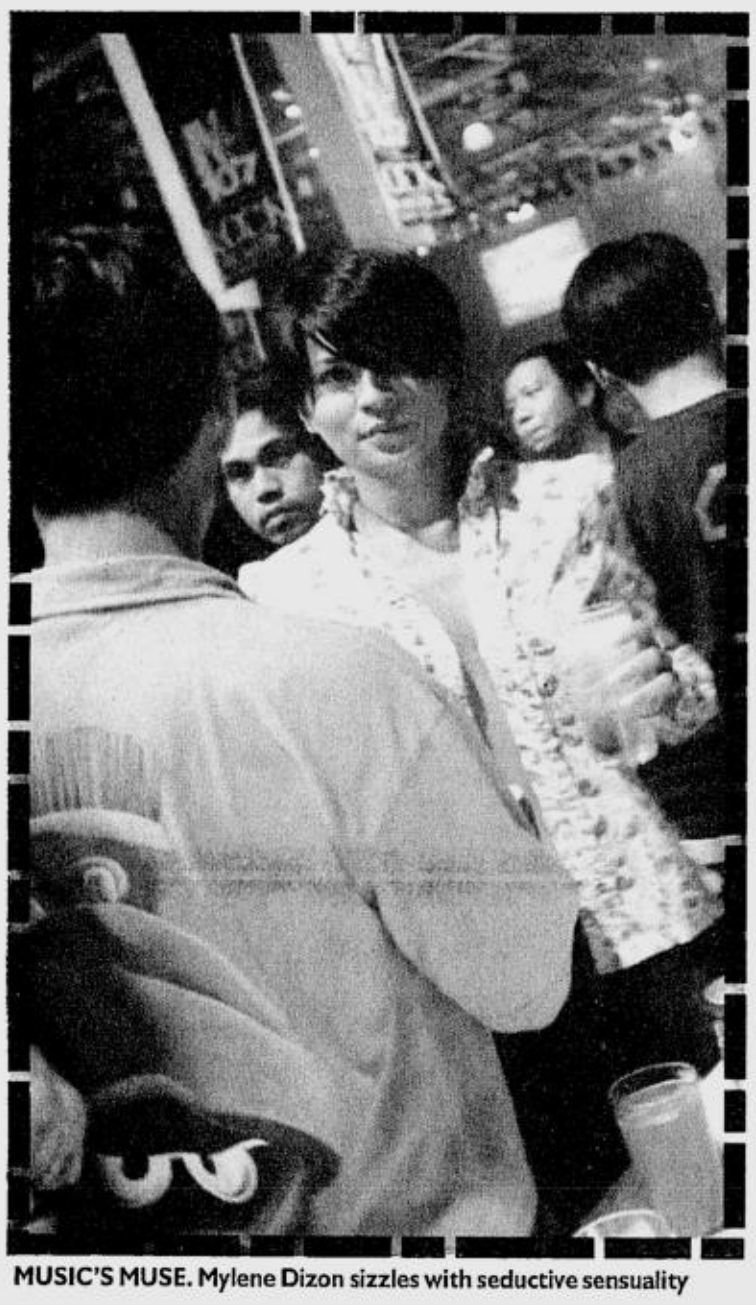
THE NU 107 ROCK AWARDS VIP AREA

New Rock



MUSIC'S MUSE. Mylene Dizon sizzles with seductive sensuality

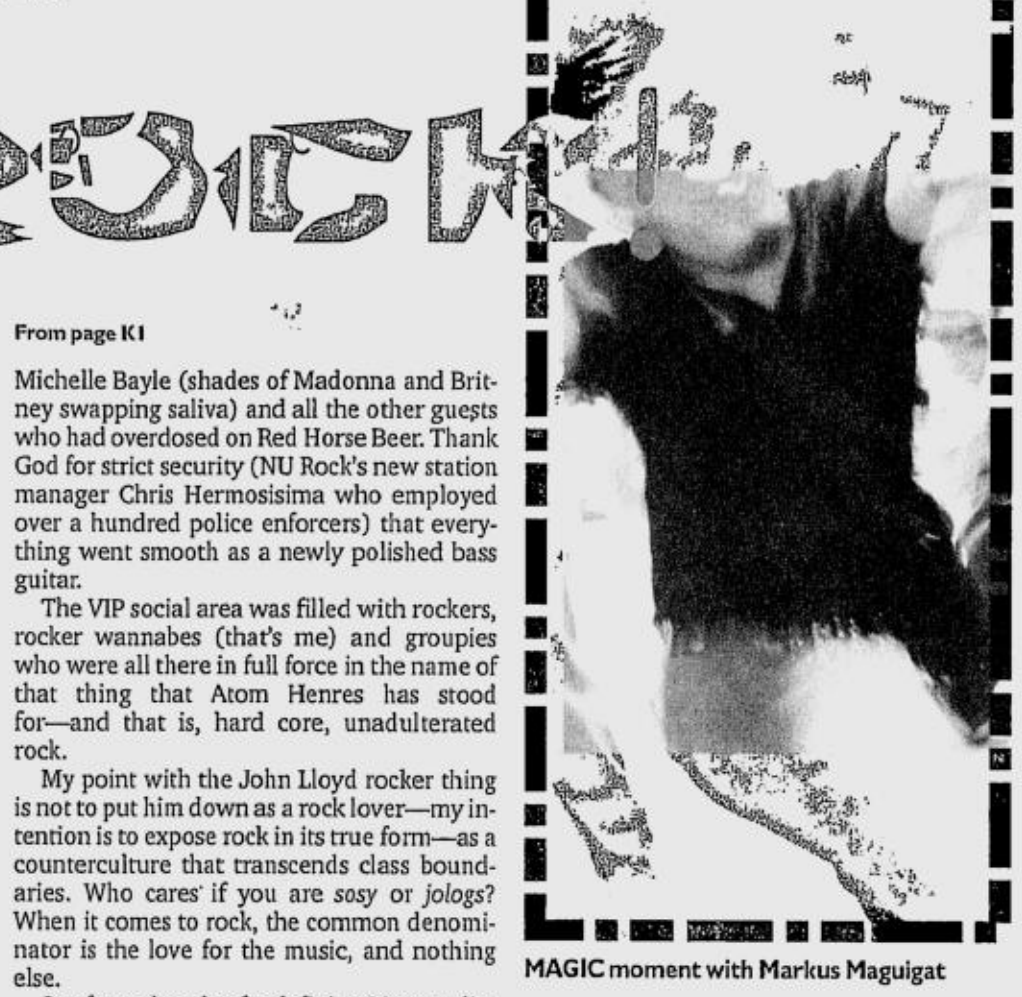
From page K1

Michelle Bayle (shades of Madonna and Britney swapping saliva) and all the other guests who had overdosed on Red Horse Beer. Thank God for strict security (NU Rock's new station manager Chris Hermosisima who employed over a hundred police enforcers) that everything went smooth as a newly polished bass guitar.

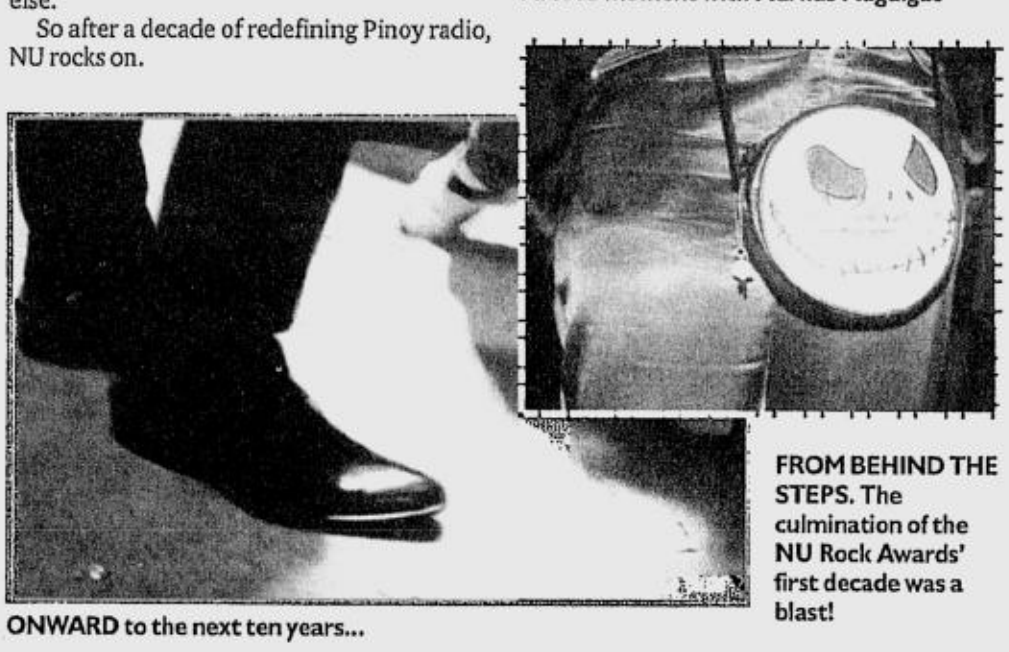
The VIP social area was filled with rockers, rocker wannabes (that's me) and groupies who were all there in full force in the name of that thing that Atom Henres has stood for—and that is, hard core, unadulterated rock.

My point with the John Lloyd rocker thing is not to put him down as a rock lover—my intention is to expose rock in its true form—as a counterculture that transcends class boundaries. Who cares if you are *sosy* or *jologs*? When it comes to rock, the common denominator is the love for the music, and nothing else.

So after a decade of redefining Pinoy radio, NU rocks on.



MAGIC moment with Markus Maguigat



FROM BEHIND THE STEPS. The culmination of the NU Rock Awards' first decade was a blast!

ONWARD to the next ten years...

And the winners are...

. BEST NEW ARTIST - Sugar Free

2. BAND OF THE YEAR - Parokya Ni Edgar

3. SONG OF THE YEAR - "Soul Searching" by Urbandub

4. ALBUM OF THE YEAR - "Sa Wakas " by Sugarfree

5. BEST MUSIC VIDEO - "Daisy" by 7 Foot Jr. / Directed by Pedring Lopez & Kiko Po

6. BEST ALBUM PACKAGING - "Parnaso Ng Payaso" - by Pan ; designed by Ulysses Veloso

7. VOCALIST OF THE YEAR - Kevin Roy (Razorback)

8. GUITARIST OF THE YEAR - Ira Cruz (Kapatid)

9. BASSIST OF THE YEAR - Rommel Dela Cruz (Barbie's Cradle)

10. DRUMMER OF THE YEAR - Allan Burdeos (Kamikazee)

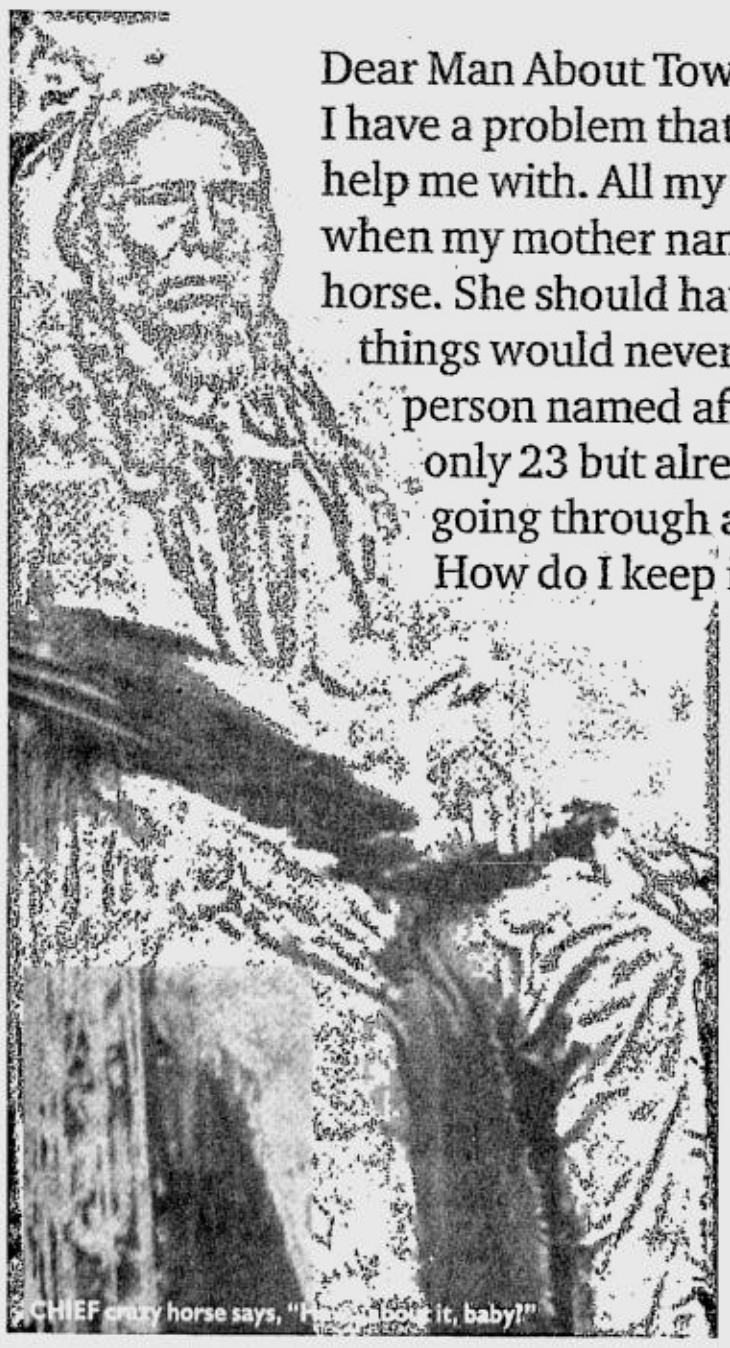
11. PRODUCER OF THE YEAR - Barbie's Cradle & Angee Rozul for "Playing In The Fields" by BArbie's Cradle

12. LISTENERS CHOICE AWARD - Kamikazee

13. RAW AWARD - Narda

14. HALL OF FAME AWARD - Eraserheads

A horse with a name



CHIEF crazy horse says, "F... it, baby!"

Dear Man About Town,
I have a problem that I hope you can help me with. All my troubles began when my mother named me after a horse. She should have known that things would never go smoothly for a person named after a horse. I'm only 23 but already I feel like I'm going through a midlife crisis. How do I keep it together?

Man about town

Chuck Dy

I AM frequently asked whether the questions featured here are real or contrived. I must admit that my capacity for fiction is, in this case, insufficient. Not in the darkest corners of my fermented imagination could I have conceived of this fantastic inquiry. Truth is not only stranger than fiction; it's also a lot more amusing.

This problem requires detailed attention and a stable (no pun intended) point of view, though I must say it is difficult to be specific because your letter is very vague. I know next to nothing about you outside of your age and equine quandary.

What is your name, anyway? The generic "horse," "pony," or "kabayo" would be dire, indeed, since it relegates your identity to the realm of fauna (unoriginal, too). It would be less harrowing, I imagine, if you were named after a famous horse, maybe one that starred in a classic film, or is revered at the racetracks. Okay, so maybe Black Beauty or Man-O-War wouldn't make the best entries in job application forms, but at least they lend a sense of history and recognition to your situation. The worst-case scenario would have you named after a horse in Baguio or Tagaytay, because they have truly appalling names, and because someone out there is riding the inspiration behind your nomenclature right now.

But maybe the gender factor is in your favor. Double standards extend to even this remote realm. Men named after animals are likely to suffer less, possibly due to the fact that they identify with the primal much more than their female counterparts. Being named Stallion or Bronco may even be advantageous for a man, as these names promote the illusion of virility. A woman, on the other hand, may have to endure the cruelest social ridicule and fend off taunts like, "Mustang ina mo!" (Your mother is a horse!) or "Ay! Si Biscuit!" (Hey, it's Sea Biscuit!)

Before I allow my puns to gallop away into the fields of shallow humor, let's rein it in, shall we? Filipinos indulge and delight in verbal gymnastics as a matter of course. We abbreviate, we nickname, we repeat syllables, we hyphenate, we abuse euphemisms, we wallow in malapropisms. Nothing and no one is spared this, from the highest-ranking officers of Church and State, to the humblest convenience stores in the provinces. We give persons and objects names that we can be comfortable with, less rigid and less cold than the formal versions. Who would ever feel threatened by a Jon-Jon or a Ricky Boy? Once in a while, a parent with a history of narcotic abuse gets carried away and the child's name careens off the highway of frivolous imagination, down to the gutter of utter nonsense. Passersby with socially accepted names view this roadside wreckage, saddened but relieved that their own parents were sober upon their christening.

Short of legally changing your name, which is a bureaucratic nightmare, there isn't much you can do except learn to live with it. Consider that most Filipinos have awkward names, anyway. Gather the birth certificates of 10 of your friends and I guarantee that five of them will have first names that sound like Tootsie Rolls being chewed on, which is why an overwhelming majority of Filipinos would rather go by their nicknames. Why not just outfit yourself with a, uh, pet name? Mustang Sally? Buffalo Belle?

And what about the incredible opportunity to meet, and be remembered by, people because of your name? "Hello, I was named after a horse." What an ice breaker! Raw magnetism! Who cares what the real reasons were behind your neigh-ming? Manufacture tales of high adventure and sweeping romance, invent an epic fairy tale of despair and salvation. Sell the script to VIVA and call it "Gone With the Whinny."

And how about all those great terms of endearment you can exchange with Mr. Ed ... I mean Mr. Right? You can call him Cowboy and he can reciprocate with My Little Pony. He can tell you his real name, and you can surprise him by revealing that *yours* is Horsey. He can pick you flowers, and you can eat them.

Have fun. Twenty-three is a great age to be—what's that in horse years? I understand it must have been quite a challenge growing up with a peculiar tag, given that children and adolescents can be so cruel, but now it's time to use your name to your advantage. I know dozens of people named after fruits, flowers, inanimate objects and yes, livestock, but it didn't stop them from enjoying life to the fullest. You might also consider that you could have been named after a mass murderer or a condom (my apologies to all the Trojans out there). Your name is not as important as what you do with it, so be a good person, live well, and cross the finish line with head held high. I'm betting on you.

(email author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com)

Conjuring The Late Isabel

GIVING Goth a good name

By Jenina F. Alli
Photo by Eddie Boy Escudero
Taken at Sanctum Unmasct

RELAX, people, no one died.

Well, yes, so many people do every day on account of illness, accidents, crimes, and stupid wars waged by leaders bored with a healthy GNP; but this piece isn't about the demise of some randomly named gal about to take David Blaine's career to new heights with a dead-people-summoning act.

The Late Isabel is very much six feet above. And she's got four people in her—a lead singer, two guitarists, and a drummer—who have recently produced an eight-track indie album in her name, Doll's Head.

So who is she?

TLI's founding member and guitarist Allan Hernandez, who also holds a day job as junior editor for a top men's magazine, was wedged into the death metal music scene in Marikina during his band's salad days in the 1990s. Later on, his playlist went on retro and, having listened to tracks from artists like the Talking Heads, Velvet Underground, and David Bowie, Allan traded in the metal guitar riffs for the dissonance and glassy guitar sound that have become characteristic of most goth bands.

"I came from two band name changes," he says, "and when I was coining a new name for the band, to fit our new sound, there was always an image that came into my mind about a woman who was always leaving something or someone behind, always on her way out. That's when the name The Late Isabel came up. And all our songs *kasi* are done from the female perspective."

Oh my Goth!

For the other senior member and the one behind the drums, John Agcaoili, who who has a nine-to-five job, "Isabel is a personality. Listeners will get to know Isabel via bits and pieces of the songs. And when Wawi became our lead singer, *nung kumanta siya* for us, *parang, 'Ayan si* Isabel!'"

Although both may share the tag of goth as genre, the mad wailings of Evanescence can hardly be confused with the ever-shifting vocal affectations that usher in Doll's Head's songs. "I wanted the words to bite," says Wawi Navarroza, a freelance photographer and self-proclaimed bum on top of being TLI's lead singer. "That's why sometimes the Rs are rolling, stuff like that. But I wasn't trying to gun for anything Transylvanian, I just wanted the phonetics to have texture. I'm not really adopting any particular style, sometimes it depends on the words also."

Gothica

"Right now, the sound is old-school goth, no keyboards, clean guitars, very glassy, *madaming* dissonance," Allan explains. Wawi chimes in, "The voice is alto, and fuller, as opposed to the ethereal kind of goth."

"*Iba-iba din yung* ideas of goth, *eh*," John adds. Though TLI is wary of getting stuck on a preconceived notion involving kohl-rimmed eyes and the inability to smile, they do admit that they will need some sort of peg so they can blurt out an answer to the query "So what do you guys play?"

"At least," John says, "labeling us goth gives people an entry point. That's also why we do some covers, to make people relate to our sound first, to prep them to listening to our originals."

In past gigs, they have done covers like "Windmills of Your Mind" and "My Favorite Things (yes, that's 'Raindrops on roses, and whiskers on kittens...')." You might even hear them whip up some Tagalog songs, goth style. Given such a musically stylized genre, the thought alone of waxing gothica in the vernacular is, in the very least, weird. The feat is, if not a bit reaching, a bastardization of sorts for the anally purist. (I know I'd hit 73 floors past the roof if Salbakuta rapped Sinatra.)

> 'Our sound isn't Dracula, it's more Night Before Christmas... we're whimsical but there's also an element of disorientation in the chords, goth but tongue-in-cheek.'

But the idea wasn't borne out of an overly simplistic "Maiba Lang" school of creative thought.

"Before, I would have been inclined to say that singing Tagalog songs, given our genre, was impossible," contemplates Allan. "But now, there's a certain flexibility in the band. *Dati mas* confined yung sound *kasi* we were younger and trying to define the kind of music we wanted to make. We're thinking of doing a cover *muna* to see what happens."

For the last couple of months, Allan's car radio dial has been on AM, where movie themes from the '70s keep him company on his way to work.

"The structure of those songs move like the structure of 'Windmills Of Your Mind,'" Allan notes. "*Nagkataon lang na* Tagalog *yung* lyrics, *pero yung* musicality *niya, parang* very tragic and dark. Which is why I was thinking of maybe doing a cover from that era, puedeng"*Tubig At Langis*.'"

Still, it will be hard for most people—ironically those whose exposure to goth music doesn't pre-date Evanescence— to reconcile Tagalog lyrics with a genre easily ascribed to pipe organs, wrist-slitting angst, and everything dark and gloomy. But TLI tries to put things into perspective.

"Our sound isn't Dracula," Allan muses, "it's more 'Night Before Christmas'... we're whimsical but there's also an element of disorientation in the chords, goth but tongue- in-cheek."

John's take: "*Kung kunyari*, in terms of movies, Batman is goth, *hindi kami* bat cave, Arkham Asylum kami. To take that further *pa, kung sa* goth *may iba-iba*, like Anne Rice, Tim Burton, *kami* Adam West (laughs). There's an element of kitsch."

AFTER HOURS AFTER HOURS

Compiled by Adrian Cuenca

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29:

Wherelse: Mauro Piccotto of Ministry of Sound
Nuvo: Electrolounge with Scrambled Edge and Don Renato (jazz, brasilia and broken beat)
Acquario: Erwin Edralin (deep & funky house)
Dreambar: Circo Loco with Benjo Marquez (soulful house)
Temple: Martin Pulgar (house)
Absinth: Pump with Joe Henzon & Carlo Ching (tech-house)
Tiananmen Bar and Resto: Couch Culture by Couch Lab (chill Out, balearic)
Wasabi: Saturd80's, New wave and dance music from the era with DJ Luis and DJ Jojo
Fidel: Velvet Mafia with Bingo Ang (house)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 02:

Temple: Goodlife Tuesdays with Steve Mills & Paolo Cabalfin (R&B)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 03 :

Absinth: Smooth Wednesdays with Steve Mills

INDULGE, indulge WAWI NAVARROZA

(R&B, hip hop)
Olive: Syrup with Lester Castillo (R&B) and guest DJs
Bora Bar: Manolet Dario (progressive house)
Bed Bar, Libis: DJ Luis (new wave)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 04:

Temple: Yin Yang, a sonic fusion of RnB and House music with Kevin Ruiz.
Olive: Freeflow with Myk Tolentino & guest DJs
Grassi's at Rockwell: Plush Thursdays with Steve Mills (r&b)
Bykes Cafe: DJ Luis (retro 70's to 90's)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 05:

Restaurant 12: 12 after 12 with Chip de la Calzada (sexy, deep house and lounge) & Adrian Cuenca (chill, electro lounge)
Dreambar: Decadance with Boyet Almazan (80s and 90s)
Wasabi: Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills (r&b)
Acquario: Erwin Edralin (Deep & funky house).
Tiananmen Bar and Resto: Couch Culture by Couch Lab (Chill Out, Balearic)
Olive: Essential (the anthems 1999-2001) with Anthony Kierulf, Jay Tengco and Jon & Marc Naval.

For your gigs to be published, e-mail the author at adrian@djconspiracy.com by Wednesday afternoon.

JUST SHOP! With owner Jon Syjuco and shopping queen Jenni Epperson at the Aura Athletica launch.

Who is Aura Athletica?

A MIDYEAR-OLD entrepreneur who values an active lifestyle espoused in the comfort of clothing. A 27-year-old teacher/student who loves pilates. And a 34-year-old mother of two who realized that gear can change your life.

Jon Syjuco. A former strategy consultant at KPMG is now an entrepreneur in the midst of many different endeavors. A lover of life, including both food and sport, Jon found the perfect solution to maintaining a healthy lifestyle in Lululemon clothing. Now, it's hard to catch him wearing anything else. When not indoors in the comfort of his Lulu lounge clothes, Jon can be found outside, enjoying the great outdoors. Inspired by the clothes he wears, Jon is always trying to bring an active, stress-free approach to any activity he ventures into.

Lia Delgado-Infante. Quitting smoking was probably the most difficult smoking she's ever had to do. She finally ditched the habit earlier this year and hasn't fallen since, thanks to the help of pilates. Lia is an undergraduate teacher in psychology, as well as a masteral student. Because of her busy schedule, it's important for her to be able to run around—and even teach—in her gear. Thanks to Lululemon and Karma Activewear that are not only technically superior but also extremely stylish, she can go straight from pilates to dinner at a restaurant!

Cindy Syuco-Delgado. Having given birth to two children 16 months apart from each other, like many women before and after her, Cindy had lost her figure and could not picture the road back. But she embarked on what she expected to be another one of her failed journeys to lose weight. What made this time different was that she equipped herself with the proper gear. Cindy lost 30 pounds! The gear was empowering and motivating. It made her look good, even from the first day in the gym. Cindy continues to work out hard and of course, looks great when she does.

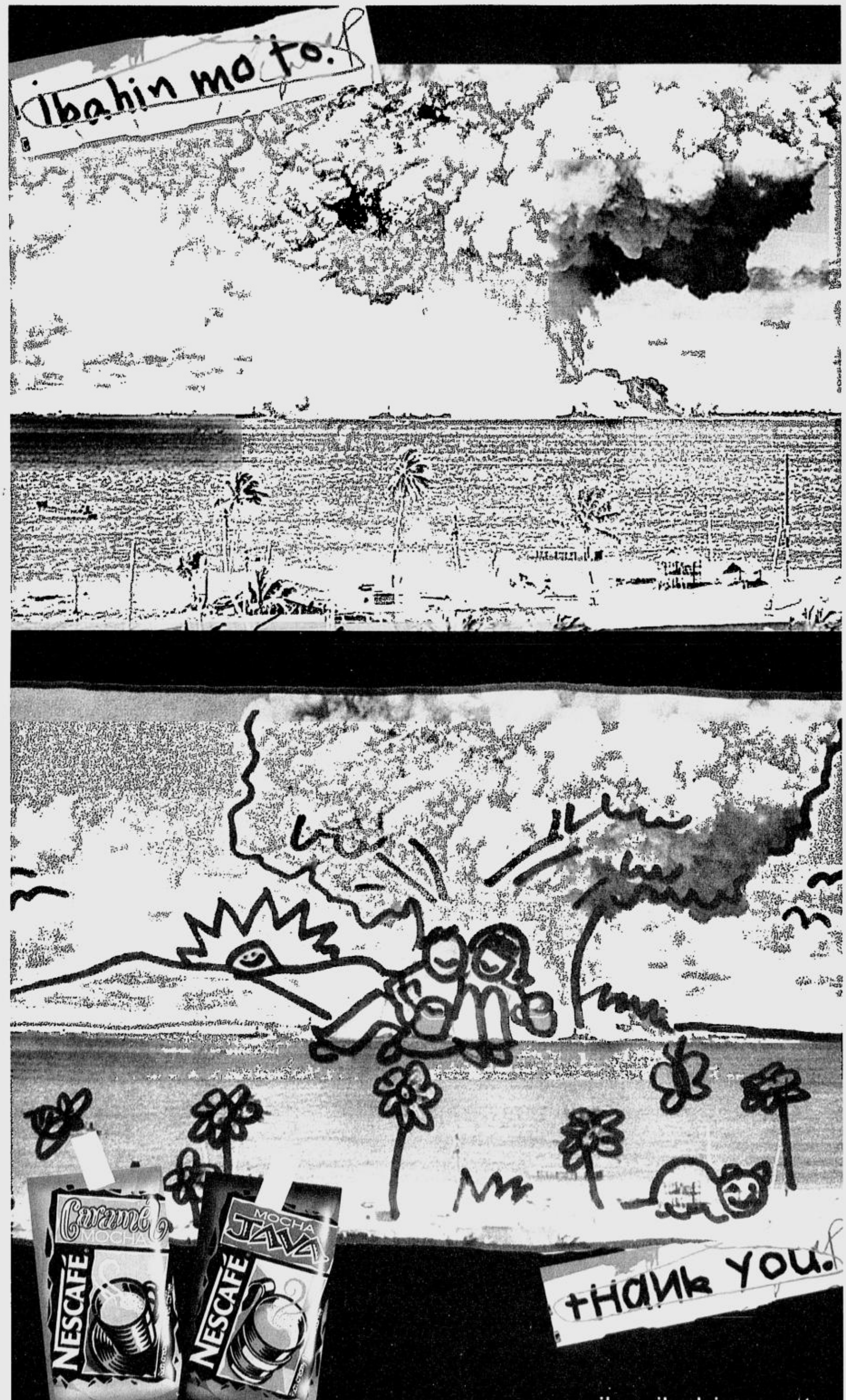
They are aura athletics. These are their stories. In time, they hope these stories become yours too. Aura Athletica is here to provide you with the ingredients to live longer, healthier and more fun lives.

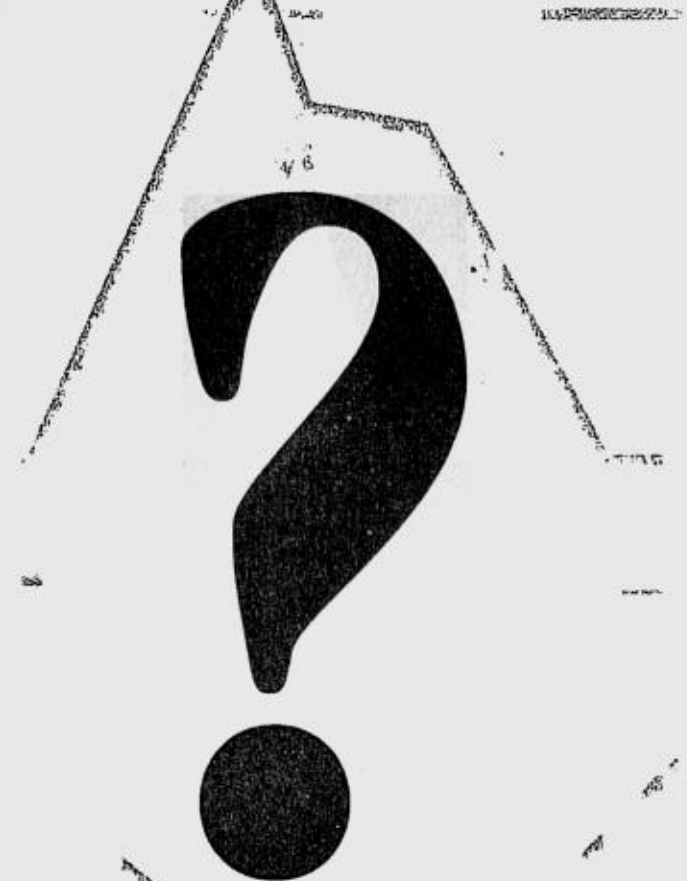
Lululemon and Karma Activewear, the two core lines of Aura Athletica, provide the right gear for everyone. They are designed to move with your body, wick your sweat, tailored just so perfectly well that they encourage the movement without hindering the flow. These clothes are designed with meticulous attention to detail, and thoughtful features that the average fit person never even thought they needed and now cannot live without. Details like: flat seams to avoid irritation, panels in the shorts to increase lateral movement and avoid chaffing, crotch gussets to avoid being cut in half, thumb holes on long sleeve tech tops for cooler weather, credit card and cellphone pockets, lock zippers, built in bras, and advanced technical fabrics that breathe, resist fading and are antimicrobial.

Add to all this the fact that the clothes are extremely stylish. How can one not wear them all day long?

BEAUTIFUL AURAS. Lia Infante, Giselle Tolentino and Monica Olbes

ATHLETICA CORNER. Sam Yen, Jon Syjuco, Carmen Delgado and Giselle Tolentino





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Who wants to be an *artista*?

By Lino Cayetano
Contributor

FROM an early age we are exposed to the unique Filipino "show biz" culture. Singing, dancing and putting on a show is second nature to Filipinos, and a musical program is a logical part of almost any kind of gathering, whether it's in our homes, barangays, or welcoming a foreign guest in Malacañang.

But is belonging to an "entertainment culture" enough motivation for so many to aspire to be *artistas*, or are there other reasons that the show biz world and the concept of the *artista* have been elevated to their present status in Philippine society—influential, admired and revered?

Being an *artista* is the Filipino version of the "American dream."

Opportunities in this society are so few and far between, that hoping to significantly advance in life by pursuing more traditional careers often seems unrealistic. Being an *artista* appears to be the perfect alternative, or rather, the perfect path.

The life of an *artista* is perceived to be one of wealth, comfort and happiness, surrounded by beautiful people and screaming fans. So we crave stories, photographs, and intimate information about the show biz world. Often, we know more about *artistas* than about our national heroes.

But how many real contemporary Filipino success stories do we hear about? The two kinds most often publicized are stories of *artistas* and *politicos*. The image of the *artista*, no matter how badly tinged with intrigue, is still more generally accepted and loved than that of the *politico* whose world is perceived as one of deceit, danger and corruption as opposed to the *artista's* world of beauty, fame and fortune.

Even the world of the *politico* has been invaded by the *artista*. In fact, and it is becoming clearer by the day that their paths are now intertwined. Politicians have also tried to enter show biz to advance their careers. A *politico's* attempt to enter show business often has less to do with competency as a public servant than with gaining credibility. But what about the *artista* who enters politics?

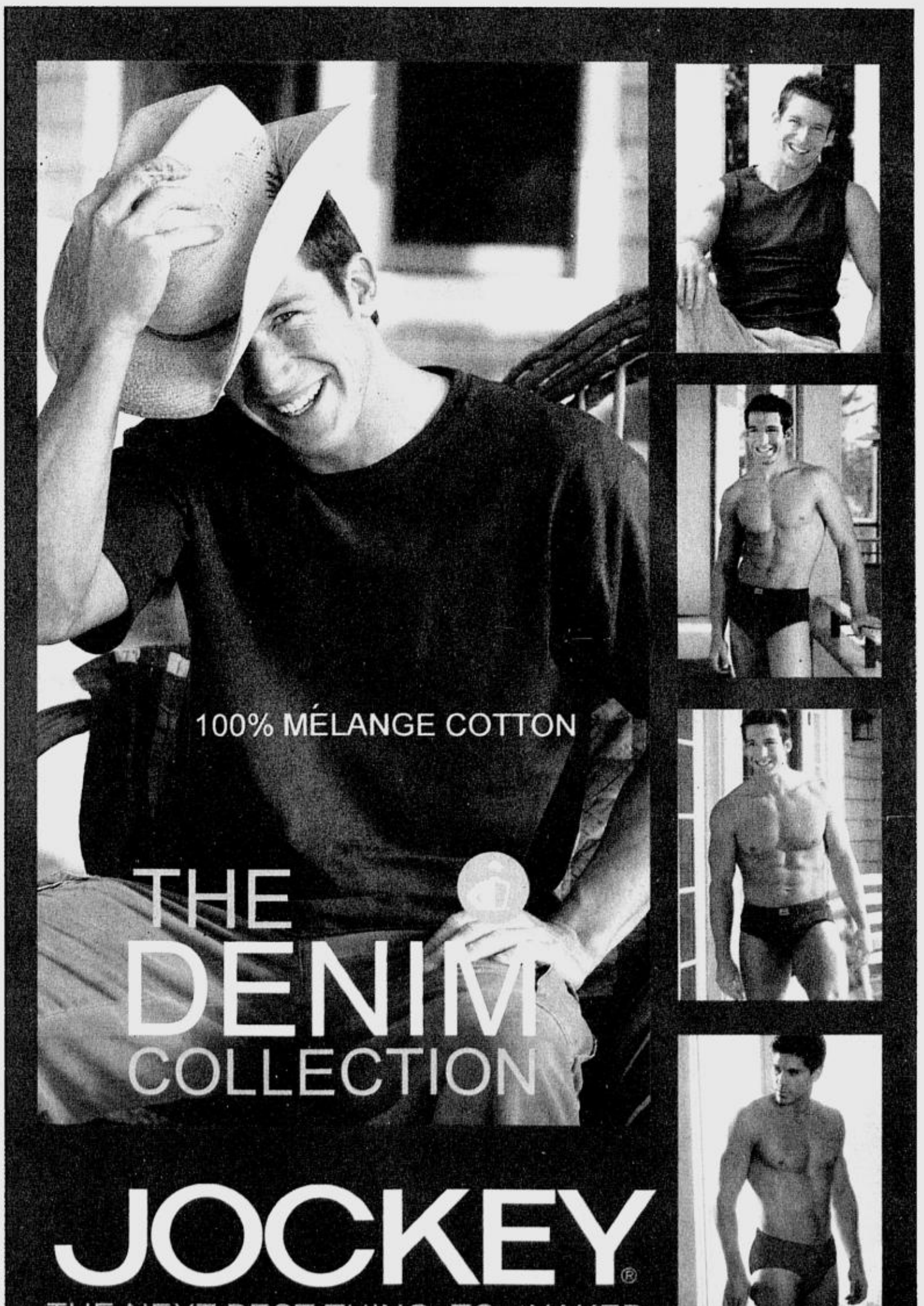
Artista, as understood by millions of devotees, means something more complex than its literal translation, "actor." The word comes closer to "renaissance artist" in the sense that, more than mere creation and interpretation of art, it connotes social and civic responsibility. This is a heavy load to carry for one whose initial purpose in entering the business may have been limited to earning money and being famous.

Whether they accept it or not, Pinoy *artistas* have become much more than entertainers; they are now seen by many as leaders, heroes, even saviors! The show biz stage is now used not just by those who wish to entertain, but also by those who want to be heard.

Thus, the world of the *artista* now requires just as much hard work, sweat and tears to enter as most other competitive fields. There are many hurdles, and success is never guaranteed. The rewards, as much as the expectations, we confer on the *artista* are often not only undeserved, but unfair. Putting that much pressure on one sector of society doesn't only cause an imbalance that is unhealthy, but also hinders that sector from reaching its true potential. When our show biz industry's and *artistas'* objectives are clouded, and expectations of them muddled, their output is compromised and we lose one of society's strongest assets.

Lino Cayetano is the director of GMA 7's Starstruck.

> Opportunities in our society are so few and far between, that hoping to significantly advance in life via traditional careers often seems unrealistic. Being a movie star appears to be the perfect alternative



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OF PAGEANTS and friendships ...

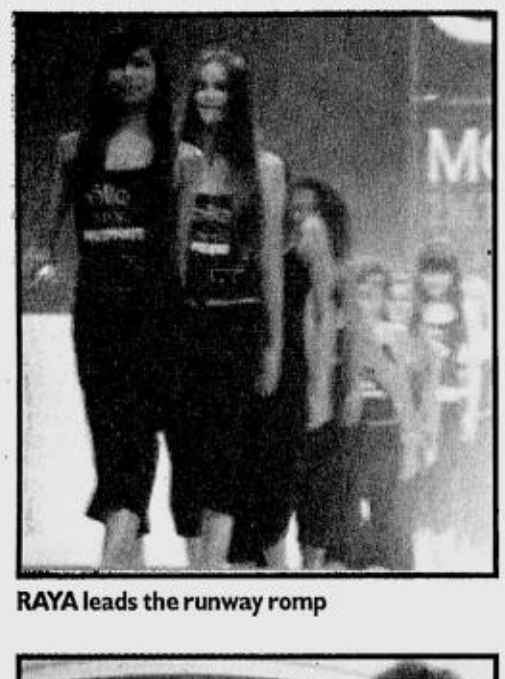
WINNING SPIRIT. Raya with Denisa

ELITIST LOOKS. Yfke Sturm and Denisa Dvoncova, both Elite titleholders

RAYA backstage with best buddies Perrnila Lindner of Sweden and Christel Petersen of Denmark after the pageant

Raya reigns

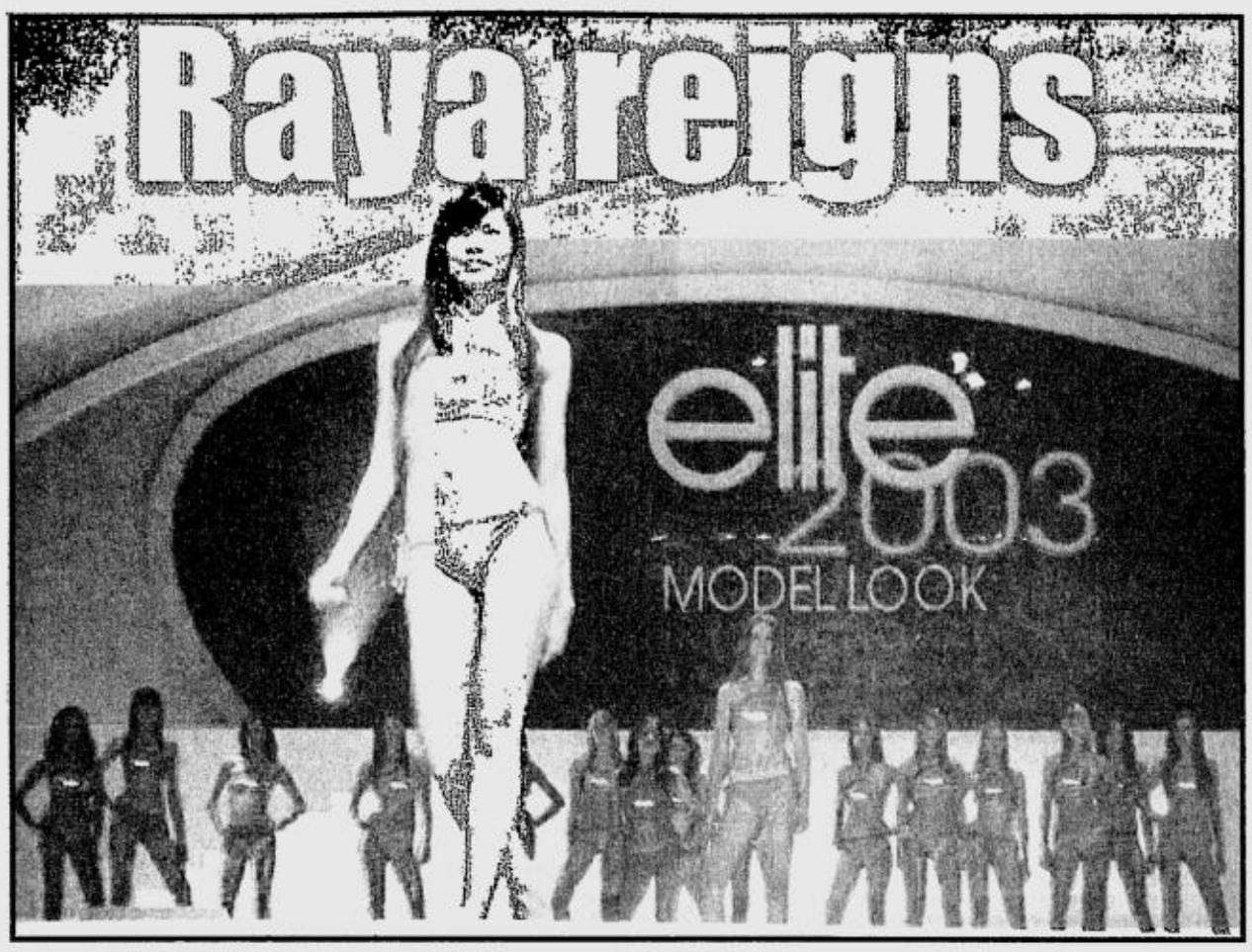
Hailed by local directors as one of the most promising ramp divas, many have urged her to try out the international scene. She recently did just that.

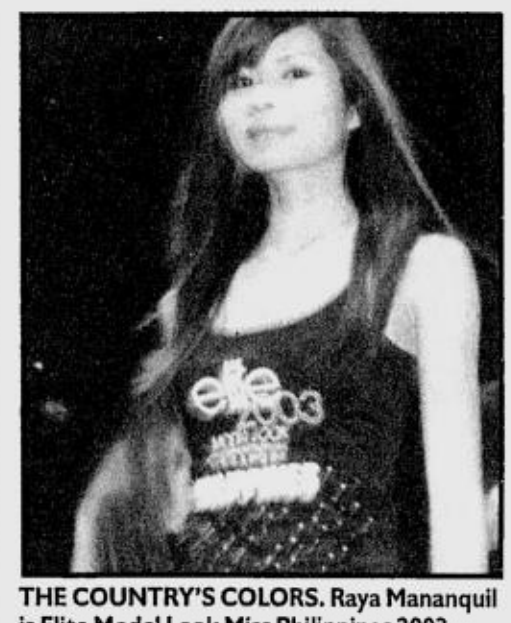


RAYA leads the runway romp

HER MENTORS. Parents Millet and Robert Mananquil with director Ariel Lozada

BACKSTAGE PASS. Behind the scenes at the Elite Model Look 2003 held in Singapore





THE COUNTRY'S COLORS. Raya Mananquil is Elite Model Look Miss Philippines 2003

DOES Elite prefer blondes?

Text and photos by Tim Yap

"MISS Philippines—Raya Manaquil!"

My heart skipped a beat as host David Wu announced her name. Raya walked down the T-shaped runway along with 63 other contestants from all over the world. No, this wasn't Miss Universe, but close—the most prestigious modeling pageant in the world, the Elite Model Look, held a few weeks ago at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

The reason for this sentimentality was, I saw this girl grow up. From being a teen talk columnist here at the INQUIRER's 2bu section and our childhood theater days in Repertory Philippines (I watched her as one of Helen Keller's friends in "The Miracle Worker," among others), I saw her blossom into a fine young lady.

Before leaving for Singapore, I searched the office library for Raya's photos and found one of her as a young teener with, who else but supermodel Claudia Schiffer, who was visiting Manila at that time upon the invitation of Virgie Ramos. Little did Raya know that she too, was poised for modeling superstardom.

Hailed by our local directors as one of the most promising ramp divas (if not the most) in the local scene, many have urged Raya to try the international scene. Early this month when she left as Miss Philippines Elite, she did just that—and she did our country proud.

Runway Raya

Even during the press conference for all the Elite candidates, the media was very impressed with Raya, and told her she had the best catwalk. This did not escape the show's directors, who placed Raya on centerstage during the show proper. She was always made to walk ahead of all the candidates (who were all 14, 15 and 16 years old! Attention, child labor lawmakers!). In the modeling scene, the show opener is the star!

Okay, granted that she didn't take the top plum—Miss Slovakia Denisa Dvoncova, 15 years old and 181 cm (or 5'11") tall did, winning the Elite contract worth $150,000. But Raya looked every inch a winner. The reason? She had a good attitude.

The friends she made during the pageant—Miss Sweden 14-year-old Pernilla Lindner, and Miss Denmark, Christel Winther Petersen, who is 16, were first and second runner up. All three winners were blondes. Predictable. "It's the icy look that's popular these days—I think that's why they won," said an Asian supermodel who I spoke to during the after-party at Singapore hotspot Velvet Underground.

Anyway, backstage after the 16 finalists were announced, some girls cried, some girls threw tantrums—Raya remained calm and prayed for her friends who made it to the finals. I remember that Raya wanted to be a nun when she was younger.

There are a few other backstage stories. A top Elite official asked one girl to call the others from their rooms, and she responded with a curt, "No, I don't like." Which of course took her out of the list. And there was this other girl who blocked everyone else from the group photos. Ah, girls and pageants!

Gucci and Chanel

The star-studded evening also featured past winners—Yfke Sturm (who you'd spot in ads for Dolce and Gabbana), Linda Vojtiva and Ana Mihalovic, as well as Asian supermodel Qiqi (don't ask me to pronounce her name)—in the jury. Channel V vjs Sarah Tan and our very own Amanda Griffin went onstage to talk about life as a model, with host Ashley Scott, who is a hot, hot Hollywood actress.

The Elite Model Look 2003 finale show attracted an audience of 6,000. The Philippine delegation was composed of yours truly, Raya's proud parents Robert and Millet Mananquil, fashion director Ariel Lozada, PR king Edd Fuentes and the group of Folded and Hung (the brand that Raya endorses—check out her new Edsa billboard)—Ronald Pineda and Alan Vianzon and their friends Jerry Buenaventura, Joseph Malantic (Singapore's man about town)and buddy Rommel Fuentebella, both of them Pinoys heading Procter and Gamble in the Lion City, young, aspiring designer Paolo Lugtu and Kiko Reyes.

The day after the pageant, we strolled (or as one gay guy puts it, "Ruma-raya ka na naman! Slang for "ruma-rampa" or parading on the ramp—an ode to Raya) down Orchard Street and shopped away—from Takashimaya to Heeren, we got lost in a fashion frenzy and indulged in gastronomic treats—something that put Singapore on the global chic list. In the middle of this, Singapore model bookers would meet up with us and get Raya's set cards for possible projects.

Back in Manila, after doing the Gucci show, Hong Kong director Dennis Phang saw Raya and immediately took notice of her ramp abilities and wanted to book her for Chanel on the spot.

It's about time.

RUNWAY QUEEN. Raya Mananquil reigns on the ramp

ORCHARD shopping with F & H owner Ronald Pineda

HOLLYWOO CALLING. Ashley Scott and Tim Yap

RAYA with her proud parents Millet and Robert Mananquil

NO MAKE-UP LOOK. Misses Singapore, China and Philippines with choreographer Danny

CALCARRIE'S model Abby and Singapore male supermodel Brent Chua, who is Filipino

PARTYING with Channel [V] VJs Sarah Tan and Amanda Griffin

PINOY DELEGATION IN SINGAPORE. Alan Vianzon of Folded and Hung, Ariel Lozada, Andoy of ABS-CBN with Ronald Pineda of F & H and Jerry Buenaventura strike a pose after the contest

"I'M STARVING." Hello pizza, goodbye Atkins!

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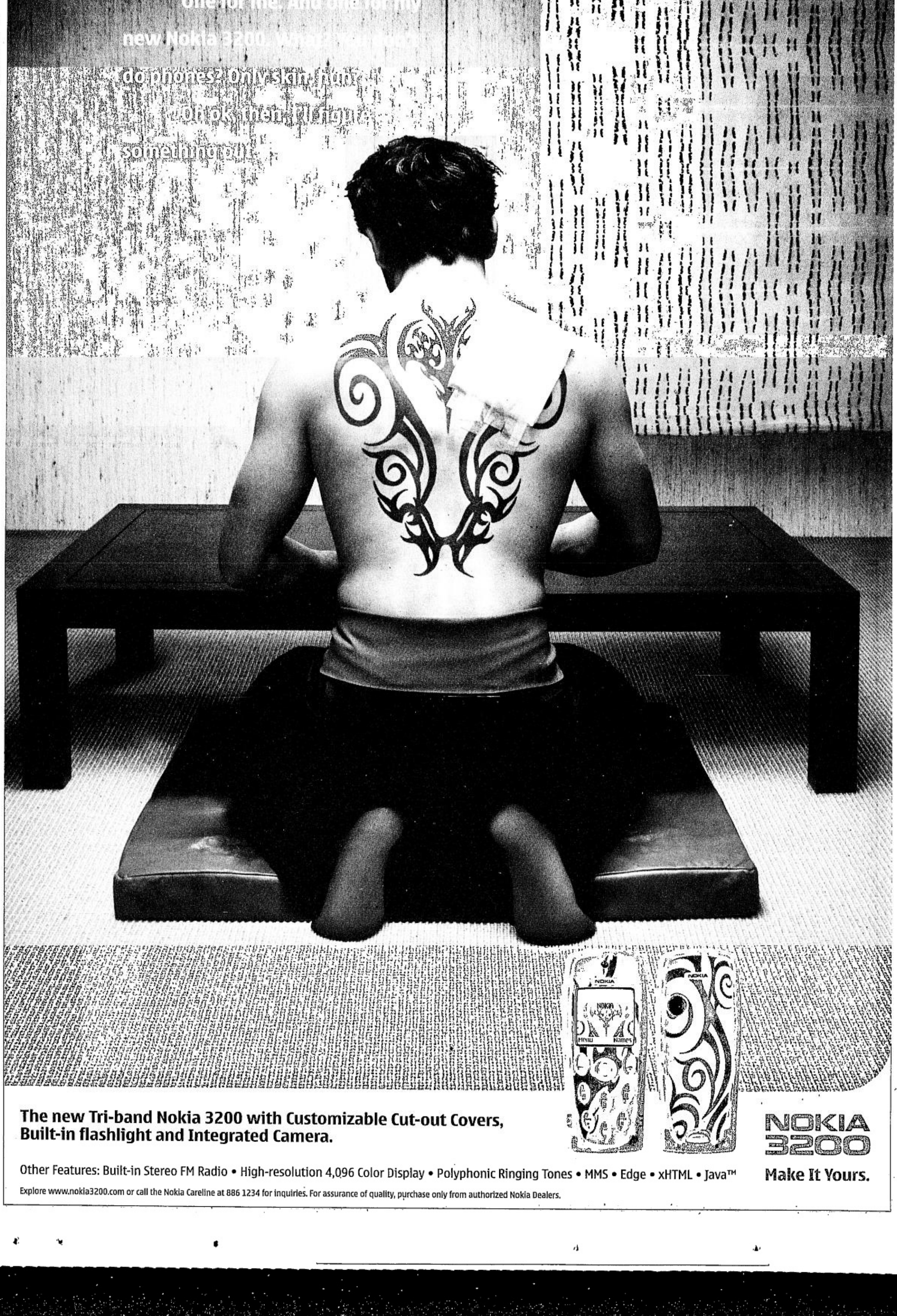

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My name is Pamela Bernal.
My most magical moment was when I met my fairy godfather, Mr. Stelton.
I am inspired by my family and those hardworking souls who manage to still pursue their studies while balancing a full-time job.
Before I die I want to become rich and happy.

My name is Yza Palmero.
My most magical moment was when I had my two little angels.
I am inspired by my parents.
Before I die I want to travel all around the world.
Pop me an e-mail at yzapalmero l @yahoo.com

My name is Nezze Castillo.
My most magical moment was when I first saw a clown.
I am inspired by my family.
Before I die I want to share happy moments with my family and friends.
Pop me an e-mail at nezzecastillo@yahoo.com

My name is KC Castro.
My most magical moment was when I met "Tampal" Geronimo.
I am inspired by my baby.
Before I die I want to ask God to live again.
Pop me an e-mail at www.chenes@kc.com.ph

My name is Katherine Eustaquio.
My most magical moment was when I met my loved one.
I am inspired by my family.
Before I die I want to travel the world.
Pop me an e-mail at katherineeust@yahoo.com

MY name is Michelle Padillon.
My most magical moment was when I had my first boyfriend.
I am inspired by my boyfriend.
Before I die I want to experience everything.
Pop me an e-mail at michellepadillon@yahoo.com

My name is Jay Murillo.
My most magical moment was when I met my first girlfriend.
I am inspired by all the beautiful things around me. Life is good.
Before I die I want to repent and surrender everything to God, my Creator.
Pop me an e-mail at sabatomurillo808@yahoo.com

My name is Melanie Phua.
My most magical moment was when I got to talk to my crush.
I am inspired by my family and friends.
Before I die I want to open a floating restaurant in Boracay.
Pop me an e-mail at melaniephua@yahoo.com

SUPER FRIENDS!

The Super! people in your neighborhood

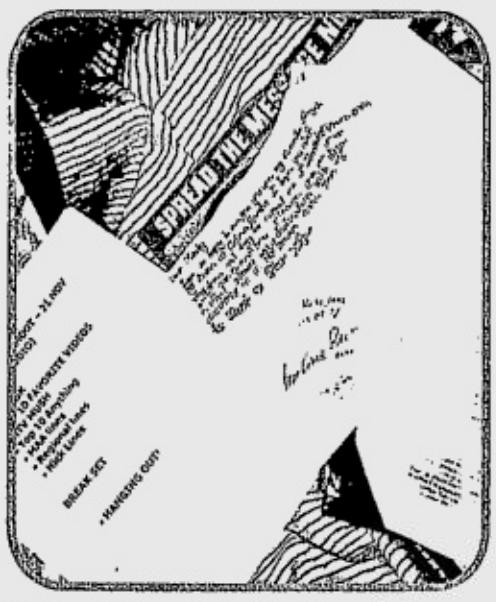
Text by Lex
Photos by Benson Lacson and Lex

WE see them everyday but to many of us they are invisible. They serve us our coffees or burgers, fix our hair, sell us products at a department store and yet many of us never even bother to make eye contact.

These beautiful people are my friends. Pop them an e-mail and they may become yours too. The next time someone in the service industry accommodates you, look them in the eye and say, "Hi, what's your name?" You may be pleasantly surprised that you can easily make a new friend— isn't that what magic really is?

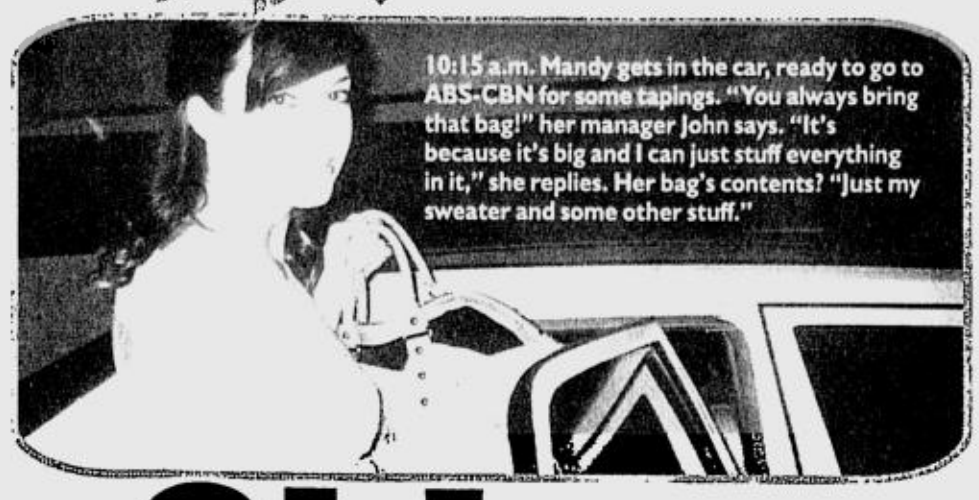
My name is Rum Langreo.
My most magical moment was when I was going to the gym to meet other models.
I am inspired by FPJ.
Pop me an e-mail at rumlangreo@yahoo.com

My name is Sam Rouze.
My most magical moment was when I first heard my baby's heartbeat.
I am inspired by my baby and my fiancé.
Before I die I want to fulfill all my dreams.



9:55 a.m. Yesterday's schedule and a letter from a fan lie on her manager's hotel bed.

10:00 a.m. Mandy checks her e-mail in another room and has a laugh with her hair stylist, April. "I'm still a nethead," Mandy says.



10:15 a.m. Mandy gets in the car, ready to go to ABS-CBN for some tapings. "You always bring that bag!" her manager John says. "It's because it's big and I can just stuff everything in it," she replies. Her bag's contents? "Just my sweater and some other stuff."

24 HOURS with Oh! Mandy Moore

Text and Photos by Maui V. Reyes

NOT a lot of people know this—well, maybe a few—but I am a big Mandy Moore fan. Some of my friends find it weird that I've put her CD right next to my punk music albums and that I've seen all of her movies. But I do love her—she exudes elegance and finesse, is so down-to-earth, and could easily pass for the girl next door.

And right now, she's having a Madonna moment.

"I can't sing it, I'm sorry," she says, her eyes almost welling up. We're at the MYX taping, she's already gone through four takes of "Moonshadow," and is halfway through "I Wanna be With You."

"It's been four years since I last sang this song, I can't even remember the lyrics," she tells the audience. Her band is getting restless from pretending to play their instruments (the music is pre-recorded, but Mandy sings it live), and her throat hurts. It's day six of her first ever headlined tour, and she's tired.

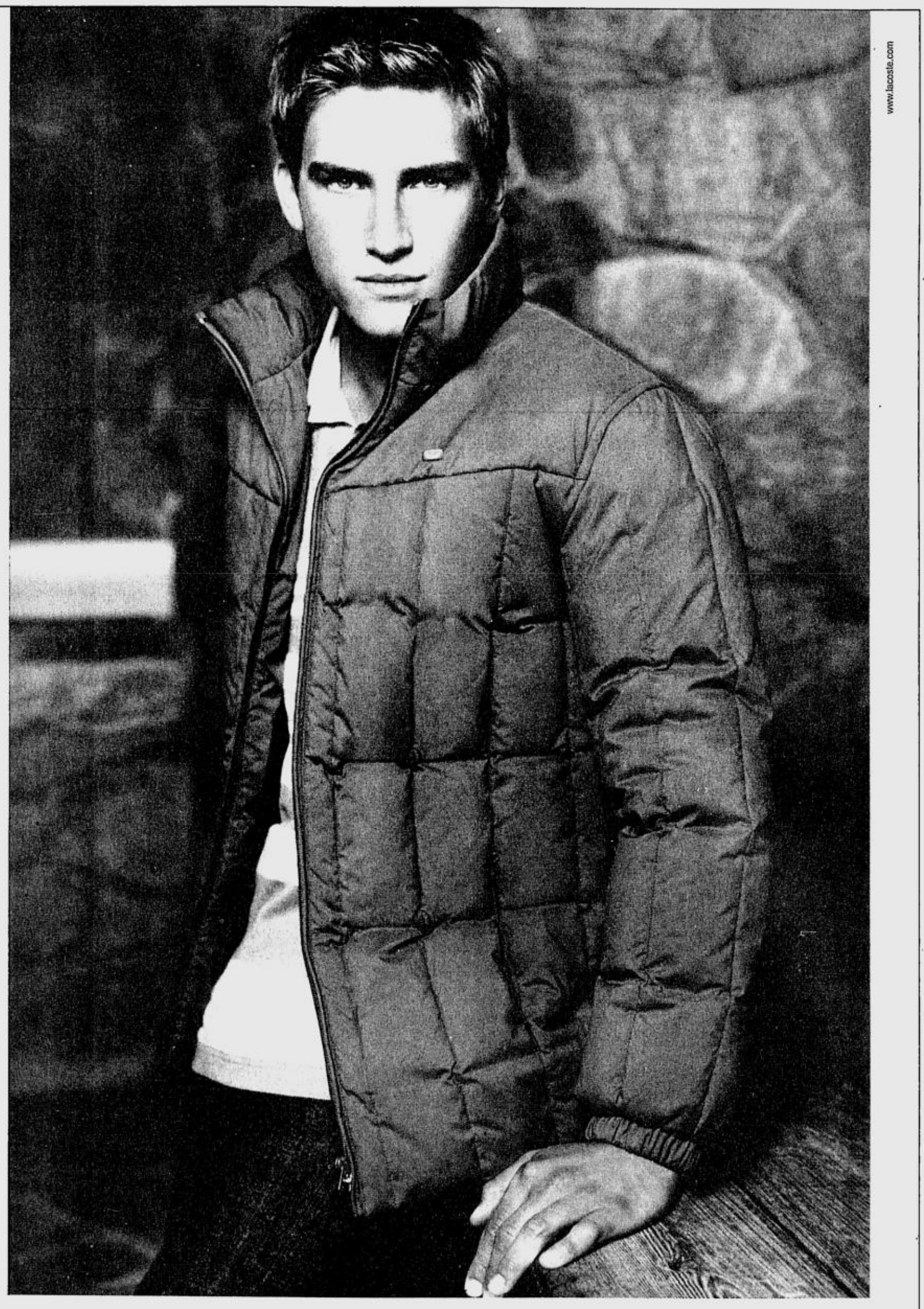
"We'll stick to three songs," the MYX people say as Mandy heads back to her dressing room. A few minutes later, she bounces out, does her interview and a few station IDs, then heads off to her Megamall autograph signing.

It would be easy to label Mandy Moore as a brat. She hardly spoke to me during the day, and I-wasn't allowed into her dressing room,

24 HOURS/ M2

10:40 a.m. Her manager John is filming every moment on his digicam. He must have a roomful of footages by now. "I've been with Mandy since she was 14," he says. "When Sony told me about managing her then, I was a bit reluctant, because she might be this bubble-gum teen star. But she's grown really well, she's doing something different."

10: 42 a.m. "For life!" Mandy gets interviewed at WRR 101.9, and does a few station IDs. The DJs ask her to say "For life!" the way they say it, and Mandy's having a hard time mimicking the DJ.



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10:55 a.m. Soundcheck for MTB. The music is pre-recorded, but Mandy's singing live, and after a few lines from each song, she's good to go.

12:30 p.m. Today's lunch topics at 9501: Musicians who've had plastic surgery (John Rzeznik of the Goo Goo Dolls), *dalandan* juice ("I love it sooooo much! You guys, you have to taste this! It's like orange but sweeter and it's just...aaaah, it's awesome!"), her new movie ("We should do a gig at the Viper Room after the premiere!"), and her "Candy" music video ("If you want to clear the hotel bar later, just get up on the stage and sing "Candy" with the dance steps," John laughs). The topic goes to the media's interest in her relationship with Billy Crawford. "It wasn't even a real relationship," Mandy says. "I even had to chaperone you both because you were too young!" John rolls his eyes. "And he didn't even pay for dinner. And I paid for the cab because you guys were too young to get into a cab by yourselves."

12:45 p.m. A fan named Clara slips Mandy's manager a letter with her cellphone number, and they both agree they'd call her up (Clara's mother passed away last September). "It's so sad," she says, after putting the phone down. "I mean, what else can you do? I hope she's okay."

1:30 p.m. Mandy's MTB performance is beamed to Baguio, where the MTB crew is filming today's show. The hosts joke around with her, but Mandy carries it well. She's been through worse—during her press conference, someone told her that condoms were controversial here, and asked which she considered worse, AIDS or cancer. "I was in the frame of mind to answer questions about the event, and then it's like, which is more dreadful, AIDS or cancer? How do you answer that?!" But she remembers a question asked of her in France that takes the cake: "When I flush the toilet, do I look before I flush, or do I just go ahead and flush it?" she laughs. "I thought it was a translation thing, like, am I missing something? And I was around 16 at the time!"

1:15 p.m. "We're MMB!" Mandy's band loves to jam at the hotel bar every night, and have named themselves "MMB." "It's become like a full family the last couple of days," Mandy says. "It's become this well-oiled machine. We know what to do, we know where to go, we know what's happening." L-R: Dorian, Peter, John Fields, Brian, and Paul.

1:50 p.m. While the set's being changed for the MYX taping, the band unwinds by singing a couple of songs in their dressing room. John strums to Billy Joel's "Still Rock 'N Roll" as Brian jokingly asks if he should build a campfire.

2:15 p.m. No, I'm not allowed in Mandy's dressing room. And no, I don't think I'd want to pick a fight with head bodyguard Rico. I later find out from a Sony rep that she's been on the phone all this time. Hmm...perhaps talking to boyfriend Andy Roddick? She later admits that her phone bill is terrible from long-distance calls.

24 HOURS with Oh! Mandy Moore

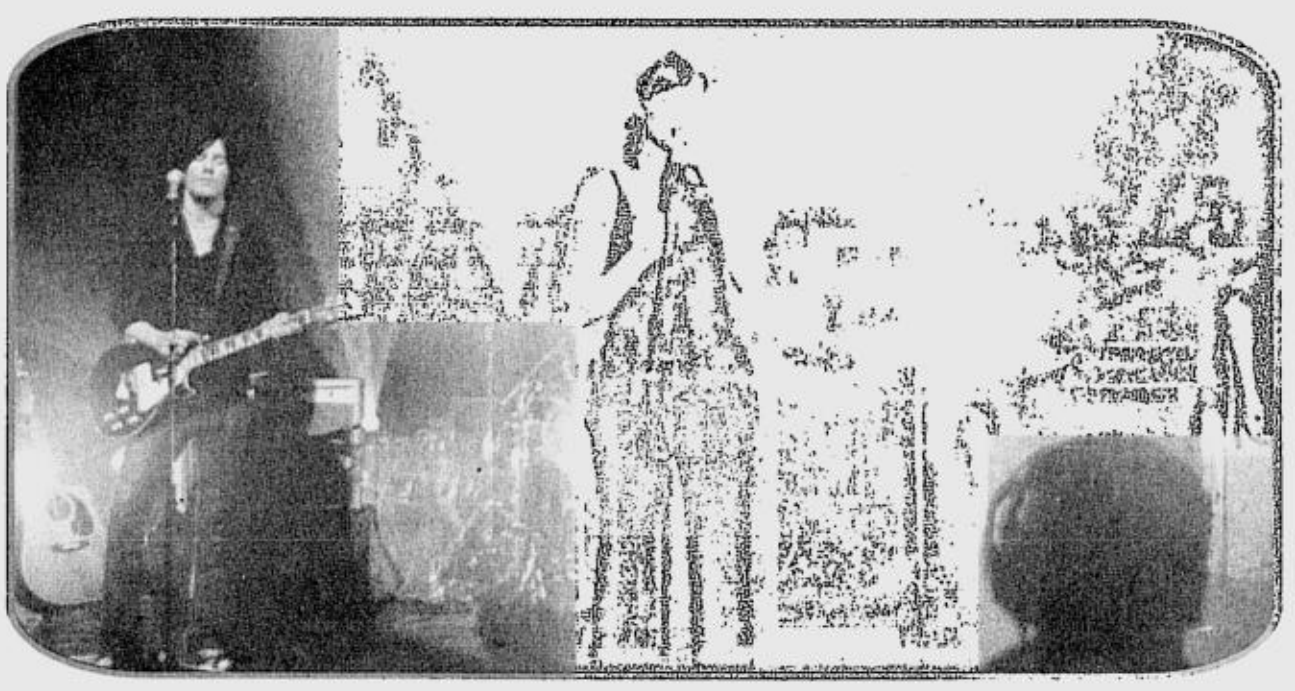
From page M1

except to take a few pictures. She seems oblivious to the hustle and bustle around her, but she always stops to say hello to fans or pose for pictures (much to her bodyguard's frustration), and her behavior during the MYX taping had a few fans leaving the studio disappointed. But at 19, Mandy's pulling this whole stardom thing off pretty well.

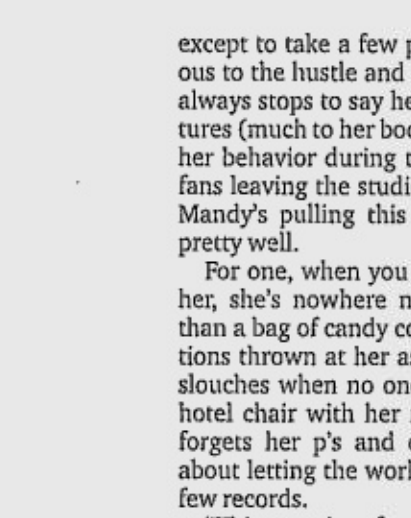
For one, when you do get a chance to talk to her, she's nowhere near "diva." She's sweeter than a bag of candy corn, and answers the questions thrown at her as honestly as she can. She slouches when no one's looking and sits in the hotel chair with her feet under her. She never forgets her p's and q's, and makes no bones about letting the world know she hates her first few records.

"This morning, for some reason I woke up at 4:30," she later tells me. "My body's been off while we've been here."

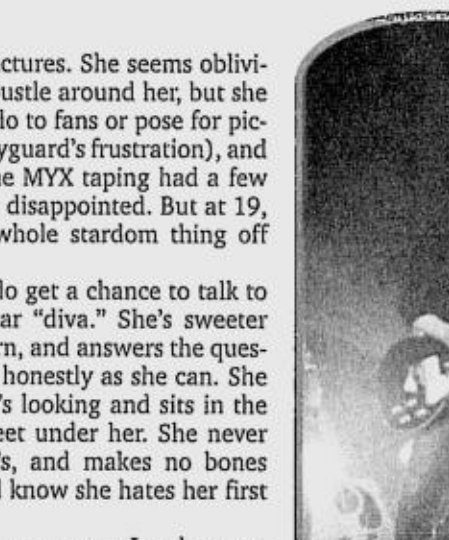
And hey, if you've been jet-lagged and bombarded by autograph seekers for five days straight, wouldn't you be a little bratty, too?



2:50 p.m. The room is filled with smoke, then the machine is turned off to give the lights a dreamy effect. Mandy belts out "Have a Little Faith in Me" and "Can we Still be Friends," but "Moonshadow" takes four takes before she gets it right (she insists she sounds terrible, the audience disagrees).



2:57 p.m. After a quick retouch by Keiko, her make-up artist, Mandy carries on with "Cry." She passes on "I Wanna be With You." "I just don't want to sing the songs off the old records," she sighs. "I don't wanna sing 'Candy' anymore. And I don't think people wanna hear it. And if they do, well, too bad. It would be fine with the band, I'm sure, but I don't...Oh my god, I think I'd shoot myself.."



3:50 p.m. I'm allowed into Mandy's dressing room for a few photos. "I've had more green tea here for some reason that I've probably had my whole life," she laughs in between sips.

Hey, we don't have that in the band room! There's a case of junk food, water, and sports drinks in this room, but Mandy passes on the chips and reaches for a Gatorade later on.

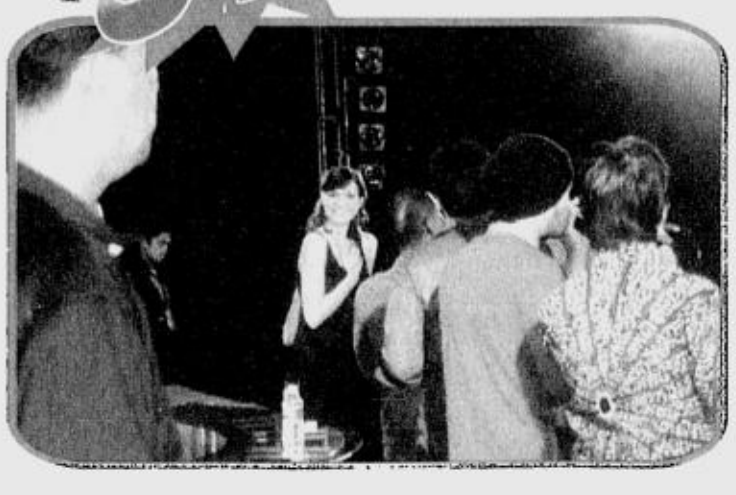
4:00 p.m. It's the MYX Interview before doing station IDs. "I've watched 'A Walk to Remember' seven times!" gushes VJ Luis. The conversation later on moves to her new album, "Coverage." Mandy shares her thoughts about her new record. "I didn't feel any pressure to make like, a quintessential pop record, so I paid for it, I went into the studio, and I found John Fields, and he loved the idea, and he understood me," she confesses. "Sony didn't know I was making this album. They knew at some point that I was in the studio, but they didn't know what the material was. I have no idea, but I didn't want to take the risk of them going, "Okay we like the idea but we want you to go record Olivia Newton-John." I was like, no, if I'm going to do this, I'm going to do it right, the way that I see, this vision, these songs, these artists...I wasn't willing to compromise."

5:10 p.m. Penshoppe's 40 raffle winners get their CDs autographed. Mandy vaguely remembers her first mall show: "I did a benefit in New York for a children's pediatric AIDS kind of benefit. I performed and I had this terrible outfit on and terrible hair, it was just not good at all. But it was after that performance I think I did two or three songs off the first album then I signed autographs of my first promo pictures. I was down on the floor, literally on my knees with the kinds and stuff like that, it was great." After the 40, John asks the Penshoppe people where the rest are, since Mandy's willing to sign even more. One production member said they had to "get on with the program," which included another fashion show. Mandy's manager is confused, and so is she.

4:33 p.m. We arrive at Megamall for the signing, and Mandy checks out her Penshoppe posters. She may look chic in front of the press, but Mandy's personal style would mean jeans, a tee, and sneakers. And she won't let anyone else dress her up otherwise. "The first photo shoot that I did for promo pictures and album packaging and stuff, I had like, pigtails, and that sort of makeup, and I didn't know any better since I haven't done any photo shoot before, so I was all excited and there were all these clothes and I got to keep them, and I was like, "Yeah, that's fine, sure." I didn't know what I was doing."

4:40 p.m. The cinema's packed, and it's obvious from Mandy's face that she's already tired. But when a fan gives her a stuffed dog, her face lights up, and soon she's beaming again.

5:00 p.m. Penshoppe's fashion show is taking too long, and John's getting antsy to get Mandy out there. She whiles away the time playing with the stuffed dog, making it dance to the music being played. And how many autographs would she sign today? "As many as she can," John tells me. "We'd like to see how many we can get in an hour."



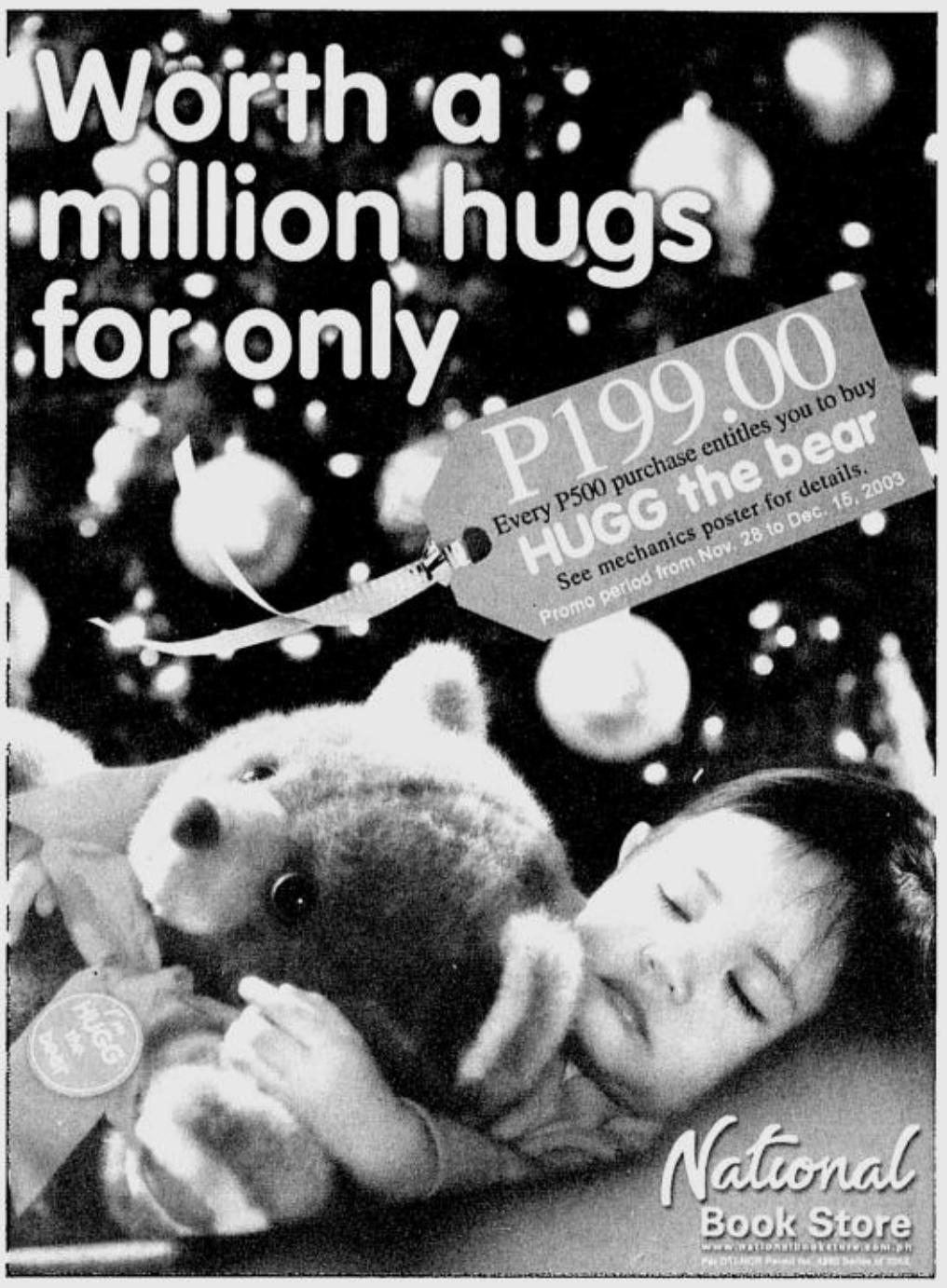
5:15p.m. The Akafellas do a rendition of "Cry" for her, and Mandy's got that "Wow, you guys!" thing down pat. She's later ushered out of the cinema and back to the parking lot. "[Mall shows] are always so overwhelming, because there's so many people and it's such a big wide open space, and it feels so, kind of sterile, because it's not that intimate of an environment and you can't touch anyone and you can't see anybody up close and personal, it just looks like this big wall or this big sea of people," she later says. "I'd much prefer to do stuff in like, a quieter, more intimate setting, like a record store or something, because it just feels more human."

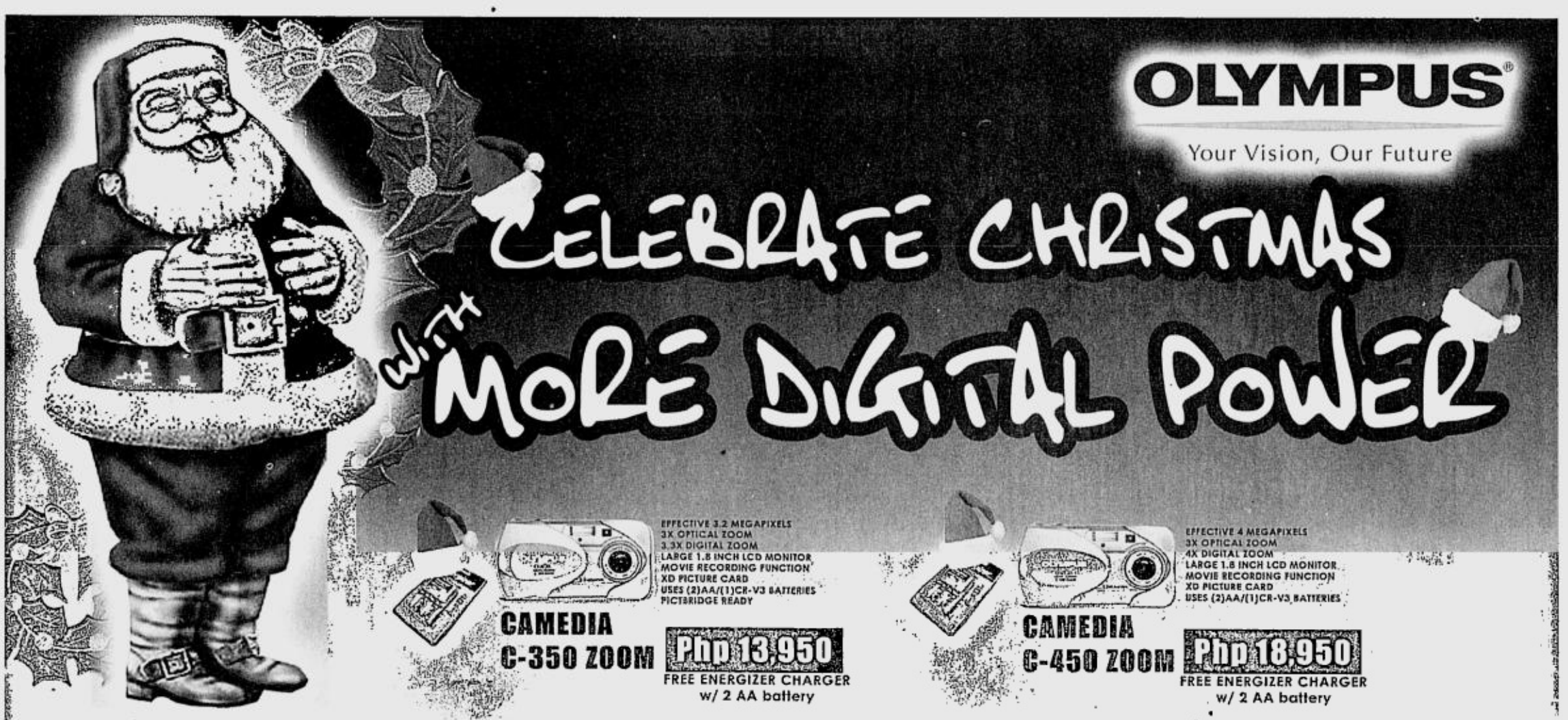
6:00 p.m. We're back at the hotel and Mandy's ready to wind down. Not without signing my "A Walk to Remember" DVD and CDs. Mandy remembers the first few autographs she's signed. "Before it was like, I took my time doing the first 'm', and like, cursive and everything, so now it's a little bit more sloppy."

6:05 p.m. Her beauty regimen? "Just wash my face with soap and water. And I make sure to remove all my makeup!"

6:15 p.m. After changing into sweats, she's ready to relax a bit before having dinner with April and Keiko, and maybe hang out with the band at the bar. Mandy's not a big party-goer. "I hate it, I absolutely hate it," she says, sticking her tongue out. "It gives me the ickiest taste in my mouth. I like connecting with people. I like going out with friends and going to movies and dinner, or like, staying home and ordering in and watching TV. It's such a bother, it's too much trouble, like, icky people. I mean, how do you make friends or meet people in bars and clubs, I don't like alcohol, I don't like being around that stuff."

Off to lala-land. "I love my bed (back home). I have the most comfortable bed, it's big, it's tall and it's really just soft and fluffy and I have like, my big comforter, it sounds so nice now. And I snuggle up to my little Yorkies and my miniature Pug. I call him my suction cup, no matter where I move, he's just glued to me. I miss my little boys."





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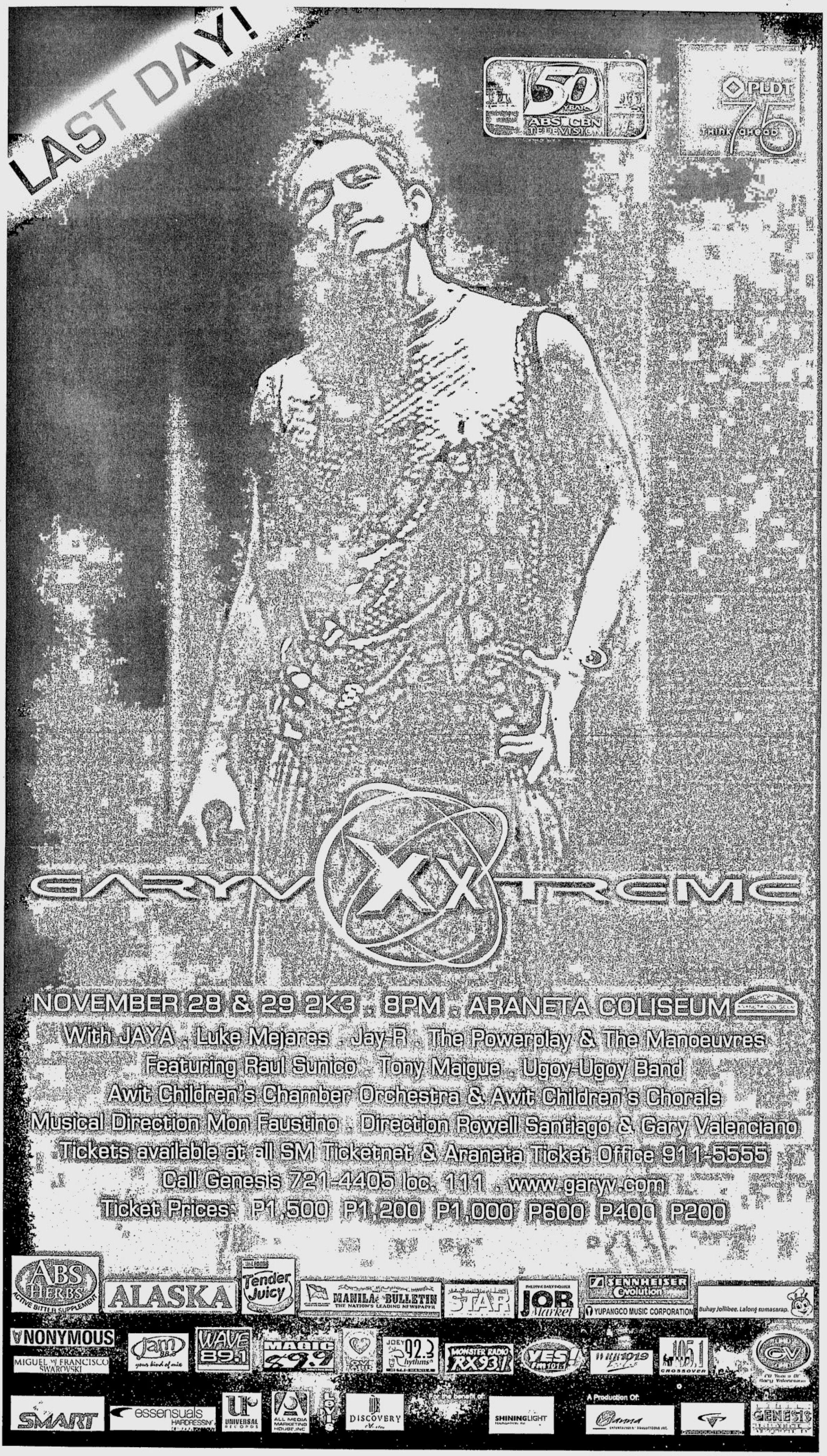
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SHININGLIGHT
A Production Of:
GENESIS

SATURDAY Select IN

[V]ixens

PRODUCED AND INTERVIEWED BY TIM YAP
TEXT BY MARTIN VALDES
PHOTOS BY STEVE TIRONA
MAKEUP BY XENG ZULUETA OF SHU UEMURA, CLOTHES BY CULT FEMME BY HINDY TANTOCO AND IVARLUSKI ASERON
SPECIAL THANKS TO TESSA PRIETO-VALDES FOR THE USE OF HER HOME AND ACCESSORIES
MODELS: CHANNEL [V] VJS CINDY BURBRIDGE AND SARAH TAN

WE live in a world dictated by media. What we see and what we hear directly influences what we feel and what we think we know. Most of what passes for media today cannot be considered nutritional brain food, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to discern between truth, propaganda and simple entertainment. But there is a small vanguard of entities in this industry, both behind and in front of the camera, that are making it a little better for all of us on the audience side of a television screen.

The maturation of Music Video channels— once dismissed as frivolous trends with no future— into certified landmarks of today's culture, has brought the Video Jockey (or, VJ) into the forefront of a massive movement. No longer simply vehicles for aging rock stars to showcase their still-limber pelvic regions, the Music Video channel has emerged as a modern Rosetta Stone, interpreting music and trends in the context of everyday life. The VJ has become the prophet for the cult of pop culture. Channel [V] recognizes both the influence of this media outlet, and the importance of its spokesperson. To represent the nuances of a youthful audience, it is necessary to have one of their own speaking at them, and speaking for them.

VJ Sarah Tan hoped on board Channel [V] last November and has never looked back... which is fortunate because if she did, she'd catch me staring. Chosen over countless other young talents, this young Chinese-English who resides in Singapore was a little overwhelmed to have hit the limelight as a Channel [V] VJ. Educated first in Singapore, Sarah finished University in London where she studied English Literature. She counts

VIXENS/ N2

From page N1

Toni Morrison and Harper Lee as examples of admired authors, and then impishly adds that she also enjoys Harry Potter. When I first met her she was in the middle of consuming a rather hefty book concerning the Royal Family of Britain... the Windsors, not the Beckhams. She returned to Singapore, forsaking a job as a bar manager in London, to be closer to her family and friends. Speaking to her in casual conversation is like chewing intellectual gum—easy to get addicted to.

The beautiful and talented Cindy Burbridge has been successfully helming some of Channel [V]'s popular shows. Beginning with [V] Smash Hits in December 2002, she has begun hosting duties on more programs—Women In Music, The Juice, Remote Control and The Inter[V]iew. Born in Bangkok, Thailand and raised in Pattaya, Cindy is of American, Thai and Indian descent—her stunning beauty is proof that God wants all cultures to get along. Cindy started modeling at the age of 13 and she won the Miss Thailand World pageant in 1996. Subsequently, Cindy went on to represent her country at 1996 Miss World pageant in India. She is a household name in Thailand thanks to her impressive resume including various acting jobs in front of the camera. "If I wasn't a VJ, I'd probably be an artist, or a marine biologist," she informs me. If I wasn't so smitten I'd probably be gay or dead.

With Sarah and Cindy at the helm, Channel [V] continues its ambitious drive to provide quality programming to its audience. To balance the act, Aussie-bred Brad Turvey, who is no stranger to the local scene, has been recruited as well to complement Channel [V]'s portrait of a generation in a new millennium. It's not just about the music, it's about the lifestyle. It's not just about the tunes, it's about the 'tude. And who can better bring the power to the people, but these emerging icons with the beauty to make people notice, and the brains to make people think? Catch these musical Valkyries on Channel [V] as seen on Destiny Cable, Dream Satellite TV and various provincial cable operators.

We live in a world dictated by media. But if it has to be that way, we might as well choose our dictators. Welcome to willing servitude.

CHANNEL V GOES ABVOE THE GROUND. Sarah in a distressed corset top and Cindy in a ruched ball skirt worn as a gown both by Ivarluski Aseron

VJ Sarah Tan

The thing about fame is...it can go as fast as it came.

The thing I love most about what I do is...travelling

People might be surprised to know that I...am allergic to cats but I have two that sleep with me at home (I just love them so much I don't care).

I never told this before but I...watch Wheel of Fortune and try to guess the words.

The most important thing I've learned is...in this line of work, celebrity is a marketing idea, not a status.

I wish when I started off I'd been told that...the camera adds 10 lbs.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was...when I was 10 years old, the coolest guy in school had a party and everybody was invited but me.

And what this taught me was...that being popular isn't important, and some years later I threw a bikini party and didn't invite him!

The happiest moment of my life was...when I got my first paycheck because that was the moment I knew I wouldn't have to live at home with my parents for the rest of my life!

The secret to happiness is...being comfortable with yourself.

The best outfit consisted of...my new black corset dress from Bebe.

My perfect Saturday night consists of...me and my two sisters, a bottle of wine, and a line-up of DVDs.

The soundtrack to my life would include... Counting Crows -"Anna Begins," Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Under the Bridge," Edwin

McCain's "I'll Be" and Goo Goo Dolls' "Iris."

If I was invisible for a day, I'd...run down Orchard Road (the busiest road in Singapore) naked.

The thing that makes you most angry is...lime green Ferraris. If you have that much money why spend in on such an ugly color?

If I was the most powerful person on Earth I'd...destroy all nuclear weapons.

To me magic is...how your body has the ability to heal itself even though you trash it around.

When I'm gone they'll probably say...she was a giggly one!

If money was no option I'd...buy my mom a country house in England.

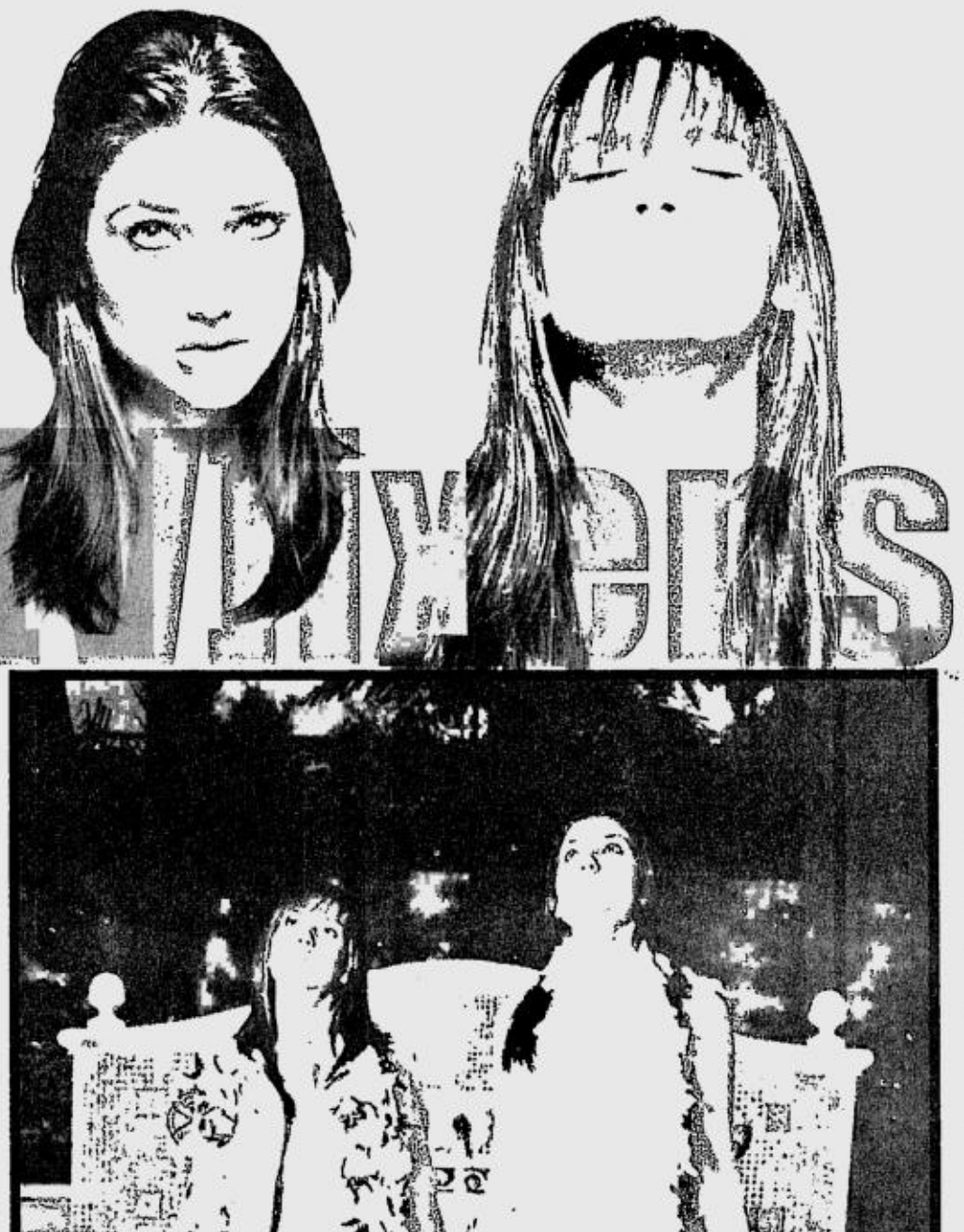
When I retire I would like to...have obtained a huge house with a big garden with lots of children and cats and by then have found a husband who still makes me laugh.

The world would be a much better place if...women were in power.

My hero is...both my parents.

The thing that makes my life worth living is...my family.

My greatest hope for the future is...to still have all my teeth when I reach that ripe old age.



VJ Cindy Burbridge

The thing about fame is...it makes it a pain to leave the house, if you're in a pissy mood because people expect you to smile

24/7.

The thing I love most about what I do is...not having to work in a cubicle.

People might be surprised to know that I...am the clumsiest person on earth.

I never told this before but I...am deathly afraid of rats and worms.

The most important thing I've learned is...to trust my gut instinct.

I wish when I started off I'd been told that...there are some people that will envy you no matter what, and that not every

piece of advice is sincere.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was...losing a good friend because of a mistake.

And what this taught me was...cherish the ones you have.

The happiest moment of my life was...too many to pin down.

The secret to happiness is...being grateful for what you already have in life.

The best outfit consisted of...my favorite bikini and worn-out sarong I wore on the beach New Year's eve '02 (a frangipani

tucked behind my ear).

My perfect Saturday night consists of...dinner and drinks, then dancing all night with my best mates.

The soundtrack to my life would include... Simply Red's "Sunrise," Matchbox 20's "Unwell."

If I was invisible for a day, I'd...raid Madonna's closet.

The thing that makes you most angry is...people who abuse animals and children.

If I was the most powerful person on Earth I'd...make sure every person had a place to sleep at night, and a meal to eat (Oh

Gawd! Such a beauty queen answer, but oh well.)

To me magic is...the moment two people catch each others' eyes and burst out laughing for no particular reason.

When I'm gone they'll probably say...what didn't she do?

If money was no option I'd...have a house in every country and a few yachts, and what a wardrobe!

When I retire I would like to...have an herb garden and bake for my fifty grand children.

The world would be a much better place if...we could all just get along.

My hero is...mom, definitely.

The thing that makes my life worth living is...the people I love and who love me. Oh, and chocolate.

My greatest hope for the future is...living to a ripe old age and be healthy.

Cult designer

By Tim Yap

IT GIRL Hindy Tantoco is behind Cult Femme, her own brand of clothing, available at Rustan's shoes and accessories for hip and stylish women this side of the metro.

The thing about fame is ... some people think they know everything about you.

The thing I love most about what I do is ... teaming up with manufacturers to create something new everyday, creating a brand from scratch, challenging my mind and creativity, the energy, the colors, the vibe from people.

People might be surprised to know that I... am pretty tech savvy and I bite my nails.

I never told anyone before, but...I hate having to fit clothes every single day!

The most important thing I've learned is...you can't rely on luck—you have to work your butt off.

I wish when i started off I'd been told that ... you can't expect everyone around you to put in the same effort and energy.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was ... I hate to refer to these as the WORST things because I'm sure other people have been

through worse, but some of my most depressing moments were when when my stepdad died, when a good-friend betrayed me, and when I lost trust and respect for a loved one.

And what this taught me was...there is a reason for everything, but you may not always know what it is. That most people have absolutely no control over their insecurities.

The happiest moment of my life was ... I'm thankful that I've been blessed by many

The secret to happiness is...to not seek it naively, irresponsibly or selfishly.

My best outfit consisted of... *too hard* to answer—like asking me to choose my fave movie or song :)

My perfect Saturday night consists of ... either a good meal then cocktails/coffee with friends *or* a home movie and cuddle time with the fam.

The soundtrack to my life would include... John Hughes movie soundtracks, Culture Club, Michael Jackson, Madonna, some New

Wave, Motown, a pinch of Nirvana and Pearl Jam, Old Jazz Satndards, The Blues,

HINDY in this month's Preview cover

Drum 'n Bass, Hip Hop, No doubt and a bunch of cheesy love songs

If I was invincible for a day... I'd hunt down and eradicate all the evil scum of this Earth

The things that makes me most angry are...human parasites; impolite and inconsiderate people; the Philippine government; child,

animal and spousal abuse; smoke-belching vehicles; long lines; compulsive liars and bullshitters...

If I was the most powerful person on Earth, I'd...make sure there was food and medicine for everyone, that humans didn't abuse the

environment, and generally create a society which would have no use for cops.

To me magic is ... a supernatural experience.

If money was no option...the world would be so different.

When I retire, I would like to...live in a seaside town, take photos, swim more, travel.

The world would be a much better place if ... we weren't so near-sighted and if we all just lightened up a little.

My hero is...my husband

The thing that makes my life worth living is...hope

My greatest hope for the future is...timelessness; a simple, content life with my family; credibility and fulfillment from my work; good health for family and friends; and a beach house.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Christmas Box Bazaar Year II
November 28 to 30 & December 5 to 7
ATC Motortown, Fronting St. Jerome Church
Fri - 2pm - 12 midnight, Sat & Sun 9am - 12 midnight

Great Finds at Bargain Prices!!!
Sumptuous meals to be enjoyed all day and all night.
Raffle Prizes from Scholastic Book Fairs,
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Yoyo Demonstration by Wonder Toys
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Tinsel Town - A Toys & Gifts Fair
December 13 & 14 - Mall Hours
Alabang Town Center - Town Plaza

Bargain Hunting Bazaar - Dec 13 & 14
Portrait Taking Sessions - Dec 13 & 14
Yoyo Competition & other Games - Dec 13 & 14 at 4:00 p.m.
Story Telling Sessions - Dec 13 & 14 at 5:00 p.m.
Fireworks Display - Dec 13 & 14 at 7::00 pm
Children's Xmas Hats Off Parade - Dec 14 at 1:00 p.m.
Kiddie Fashion Show - Dec 14 at 6:00 pm

REGISTER YOUR KIDS AGES 2 TO 12 NOW! FREE!!
TEXT YOUR CHILD'S NAME & AGE TO:
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FOR THE YOYO COMPETITION
REGISTER AT THE SITE ON DECEMBER 13

Help fill the Christmas Box with Goodies
for the children of Elsie Gaches.
(Donations of old or new toys & garments are requested)

INQUIRER BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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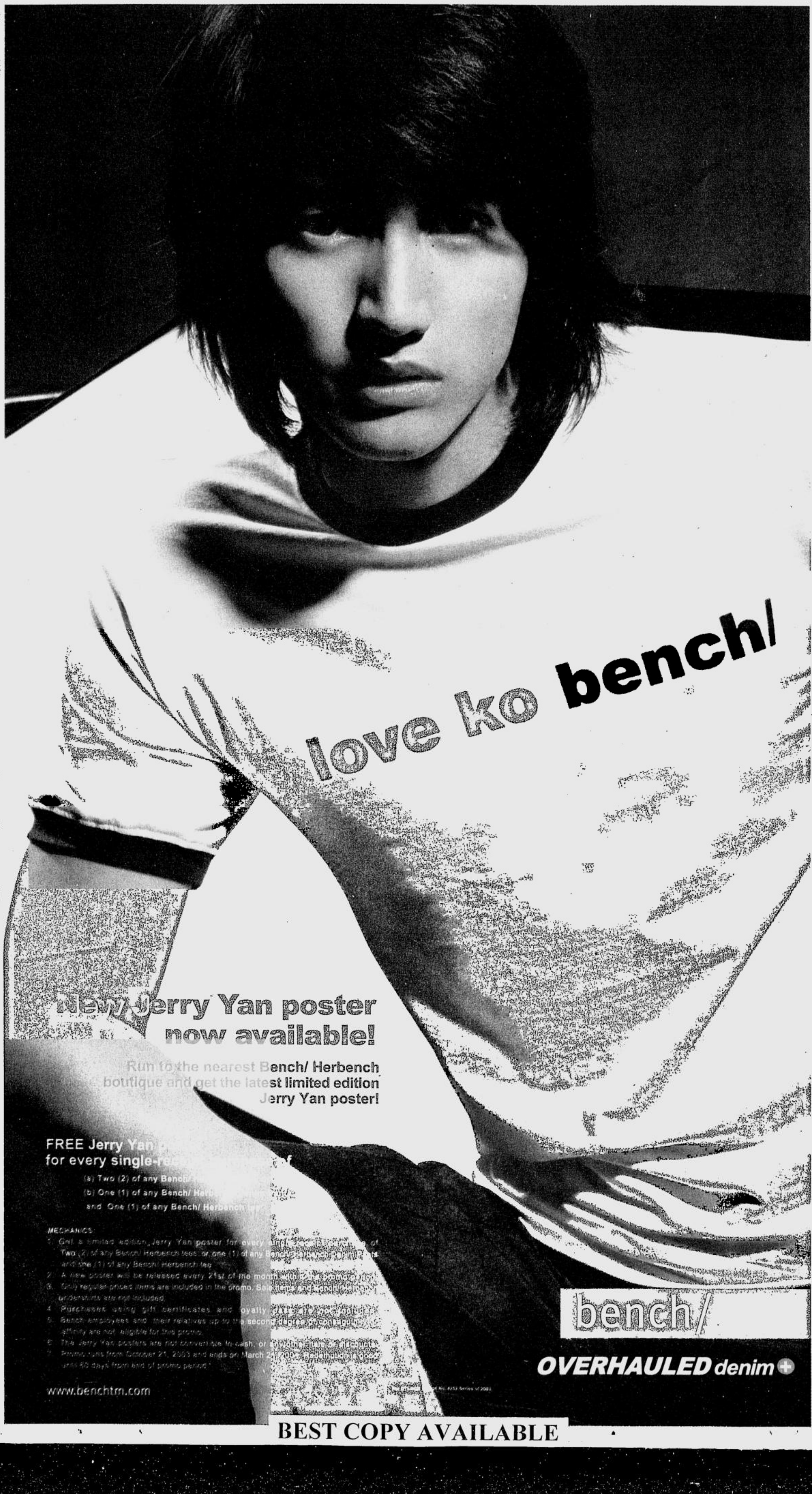

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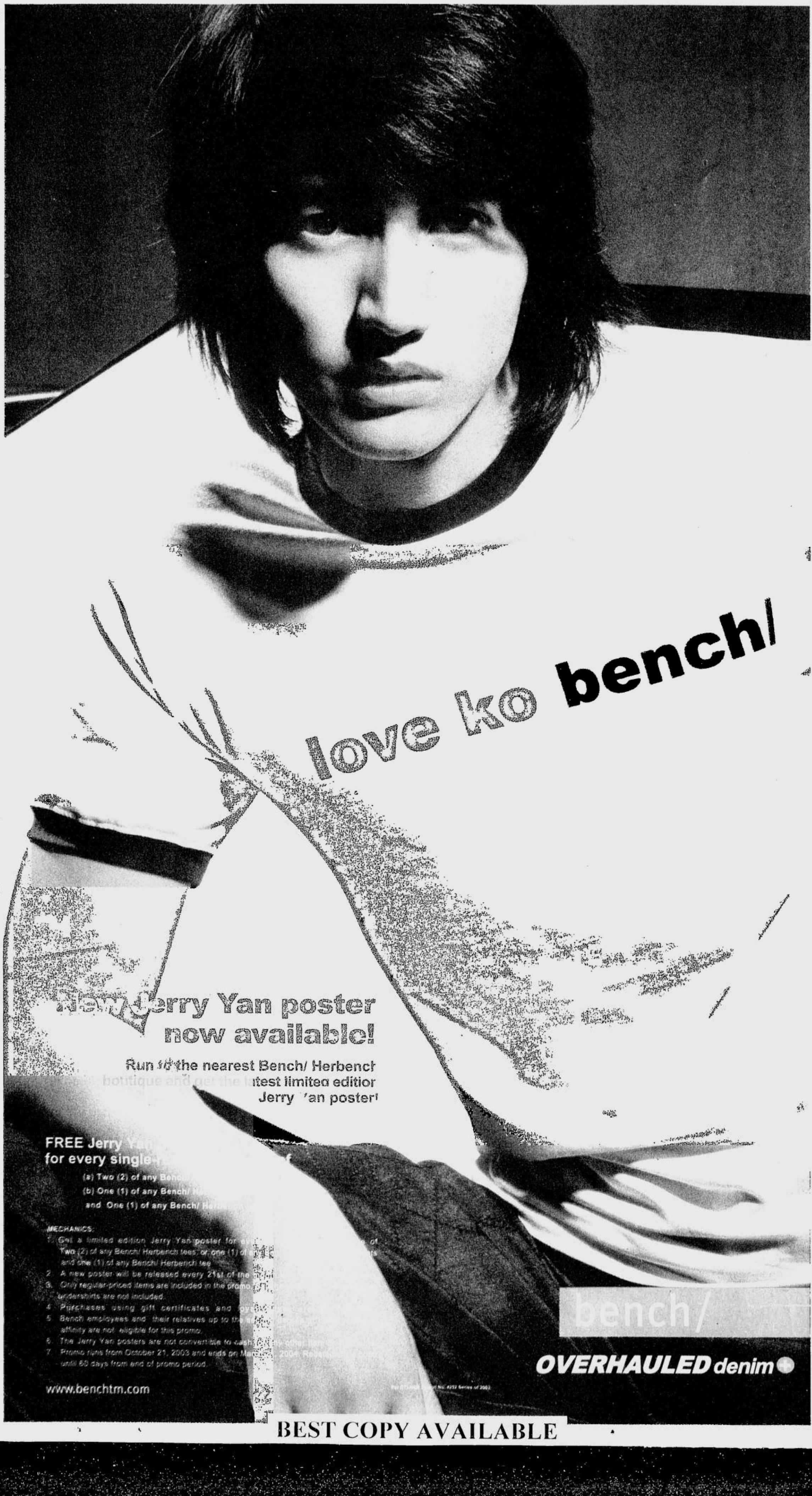

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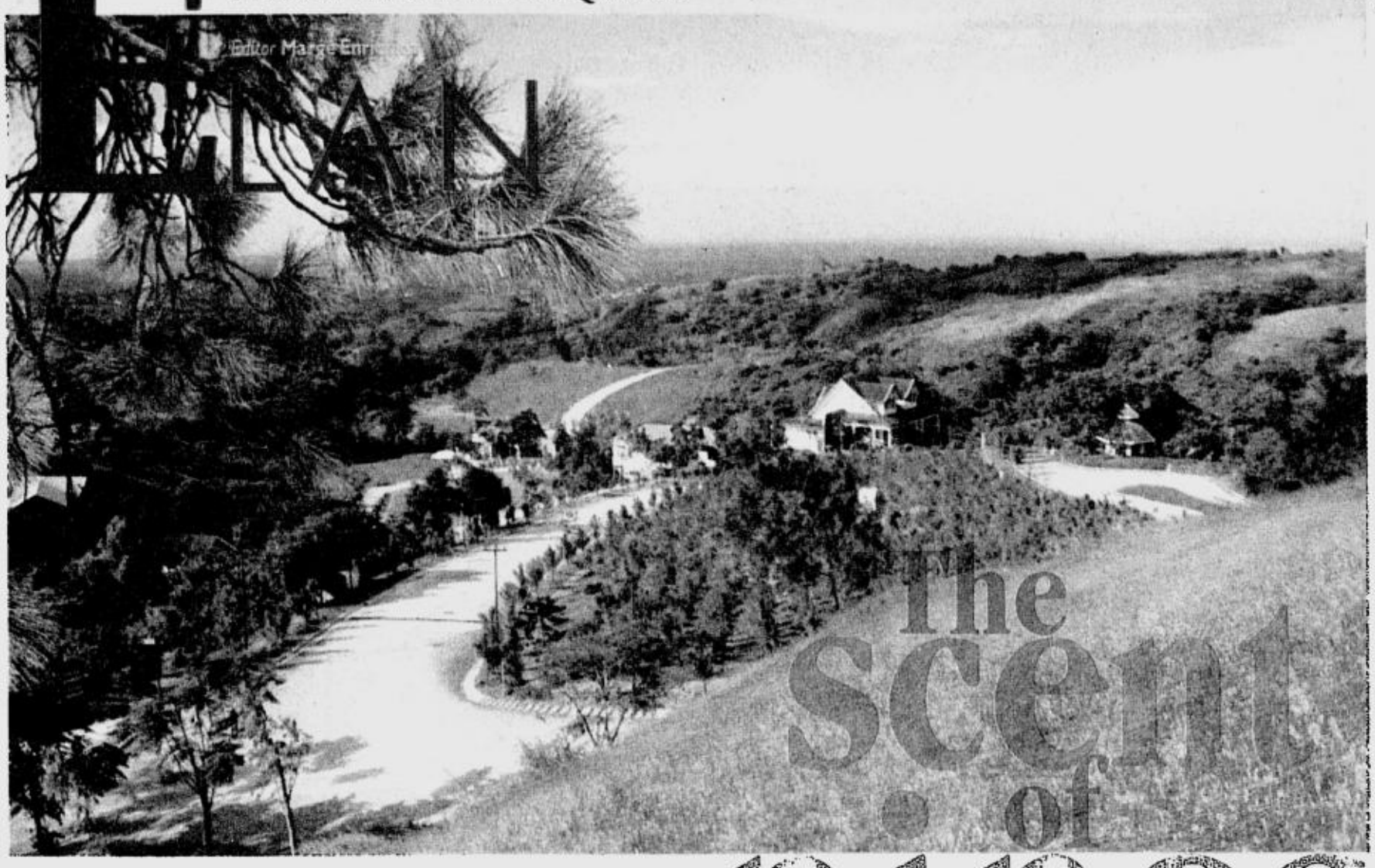
ÉLAN

Editor Marge Enri



The scent of pines

More of ÉLAN in Section C

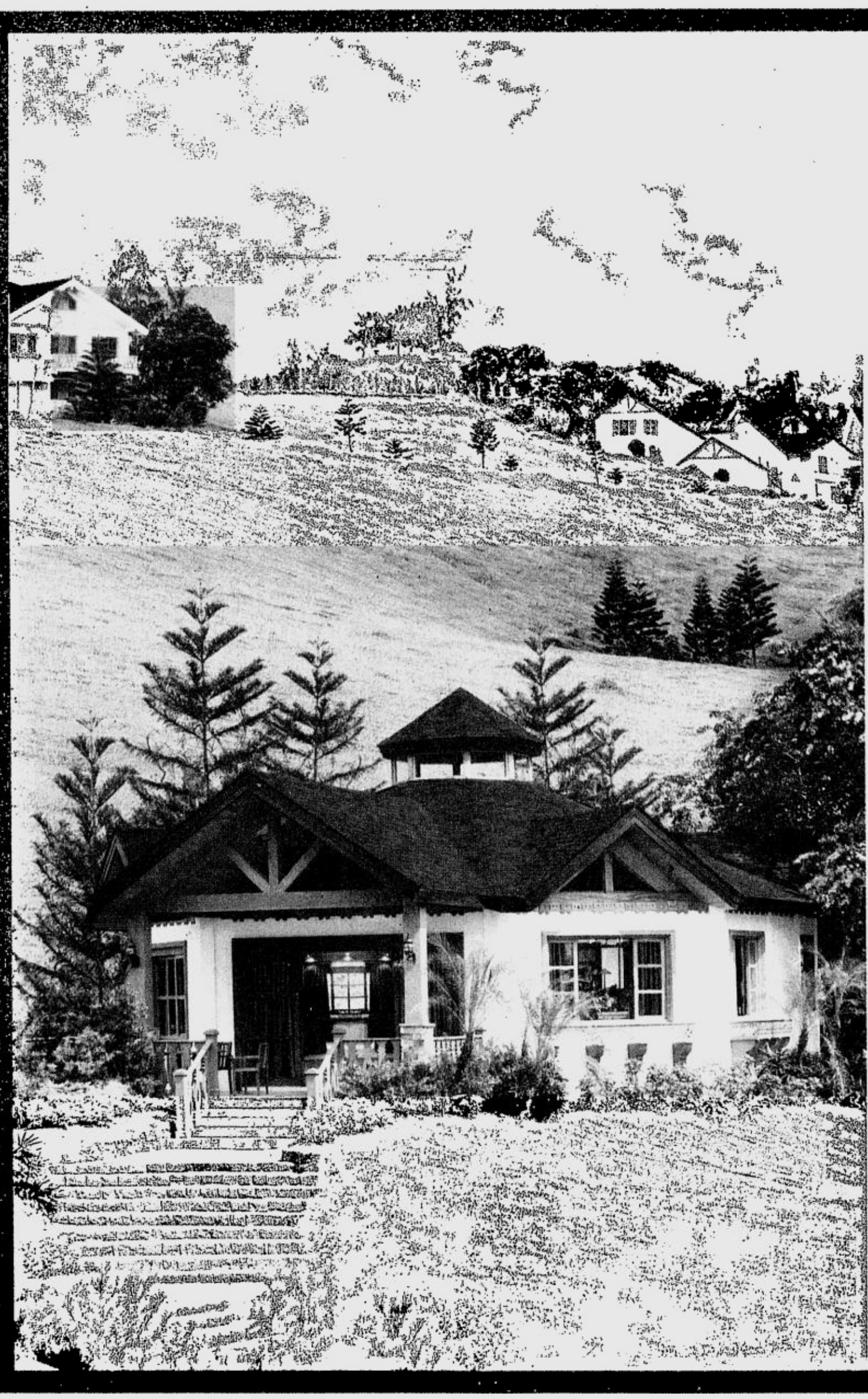
Though Taal Lake is not visible from Tagaytay CrossWinds, the village has its own lures—a taste of Swiss country living without the inconvenience and expense of long-haul travel

By Avie Gochoco-Perez, *Contributor*

A WHIFF of Switzerland in Tagaytay? A short drive south of Metro Manila brings you to the 100-hectare gated community that is CrossWinds, which offers just that, according to the drumbeaters of its owner-developer, Brittany Bay.

"It is the only pine estate south of Metro Manila," says Nova Noval. Word is that CrossWinds has about 6,000 pine trees from Australia planted across its rolling terrain for that pine scent and scenery. Baguio has approximately 25,000. Why not

THE SCENT/ 2



HOME SWISS HOME

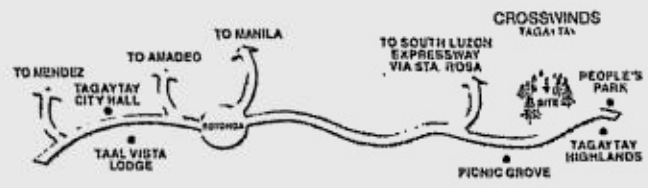
At Crosswinds, you could have your very own little piece of Switzerland, whether it's land for a future home or a chalet you can live in right away.

The homes combine Swiss-inspired wood patterns, wide porches and overhanging eaves. The interiors feature a wide open space, perfect for family gatherings.

And the homes are set against gentle, rolling hills, surrounded by pine trees under a calm, quiet ambience.

It's a great life at Crosswinds–your home Swiss home.

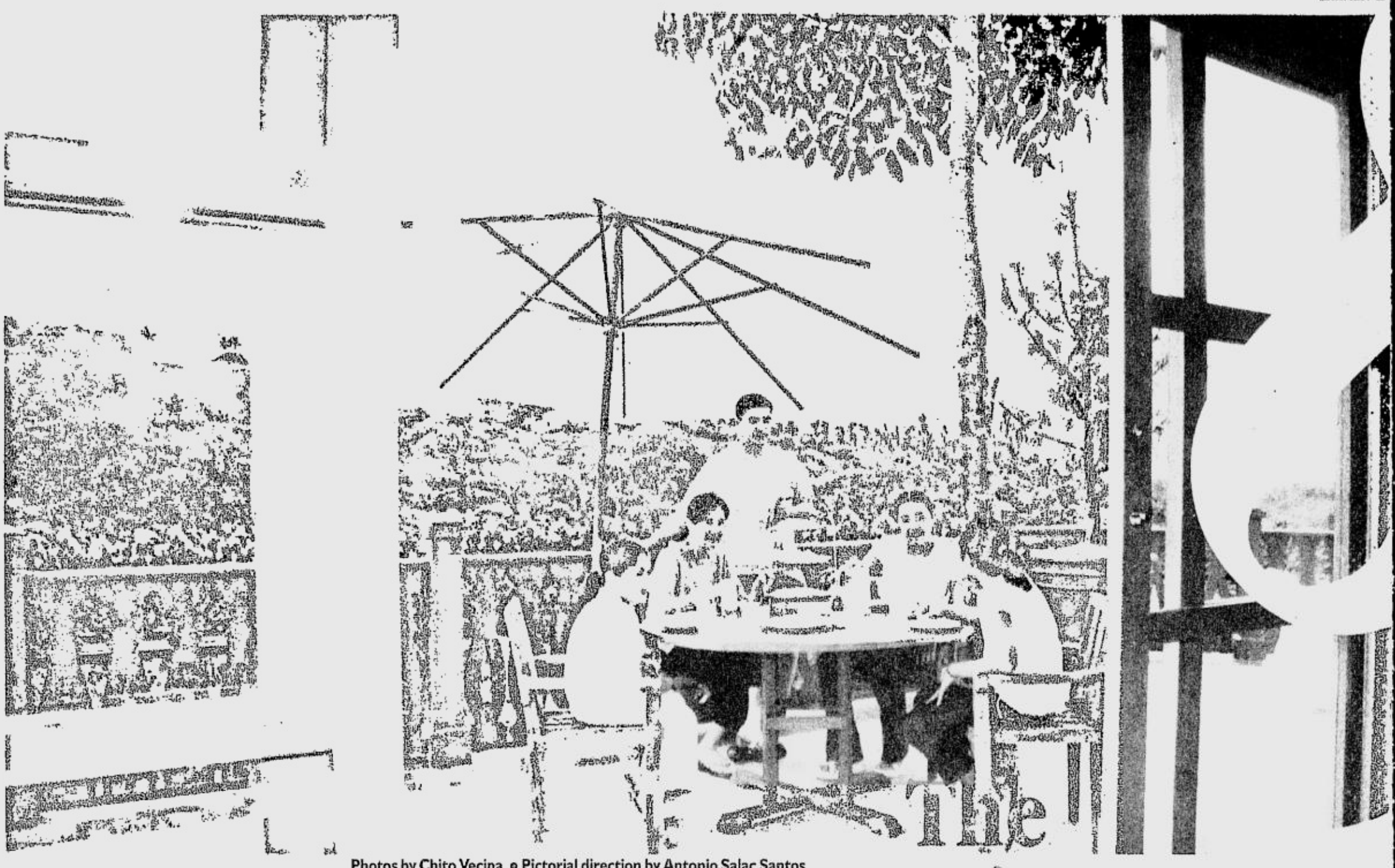
To know more about **Crosswinds, Tagaytay**, call us at **850 2868** and **850 3084** or email us at **mktg@brittany.com.ph**.
Or come over to Crosswinds this weekend and see what the Swiss life is all about.



CROSSWINDS
Life is great.

Brittany
CORPORATION

Étude in CrossWinds of the Swiss village



Photos by Chito Vecina • Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos
Digital enhancement by Meow Ferrer and Sandy Floria of I • Ikon Manila

From page 1

Baguio-grown pine trees instead? Australia was found to have the fastest-growing pine trees for Tagaytay soil.

Nestled in a spot surrounded by such landmarks as Picnic Grove, People's Park and Tagaytay Highlands, CrossWinds has Swiss chalets peeking out of its gentle slopes. Chalet owners hie off to these getaways just to have peace and quiet. "Some come just to sleep through the weekend," says Noval.

Atelier Almario's designing duo, sisters Ivy and Cynthia Almario, did the clubhouse at CrossWinds. Sitting in a veritable Alpine setting, the clubhouse is a round, open bungalow with a fireplace as center of attraction. A flyer shows the view of a sloping hill from the entryway of the clubhouse. Concrete winding roads outline manicured grass lawns, on which sit white-and-chocolate brown homes with pitched roofs.

Though Taal Lake and its famous volcano are not visible from CrossWinds, the village has created its own come-on of an atmosphere: a taste of Swiss country living without the inconvenience and expense of long-haul travel.

Nine clusters of "Swiss quadrilles," or four homes each are on the drawing board. Four of the nine are coming out of the drawing boards of Recio+Casas Architects. Carmelo T. Casas describes these as "multi-family dwellings" that share two common walls out of the four. The quadrilles equate to more density within the gated community, but at the same time leaves more outdoor space than a proliferation of single-detached homes would.

Each unit in the quadrille of two-bedroom homes covers about 135 sq.m. of floor space and sells for about P4.5 million. Casas says the living and dining rooms are on ground level and are "very spacious and wide," to make for conducive entertaining and relaxation. It also has an "intentionally generous" kitchen space, because after all, many describe the kitchen as the heart of the home.

The living room is surrounded by a veranda to "extend" to the greenery beyond. "You have controlled visual contact with the outside world, where you can see the rolling hills and sky," Casas says.

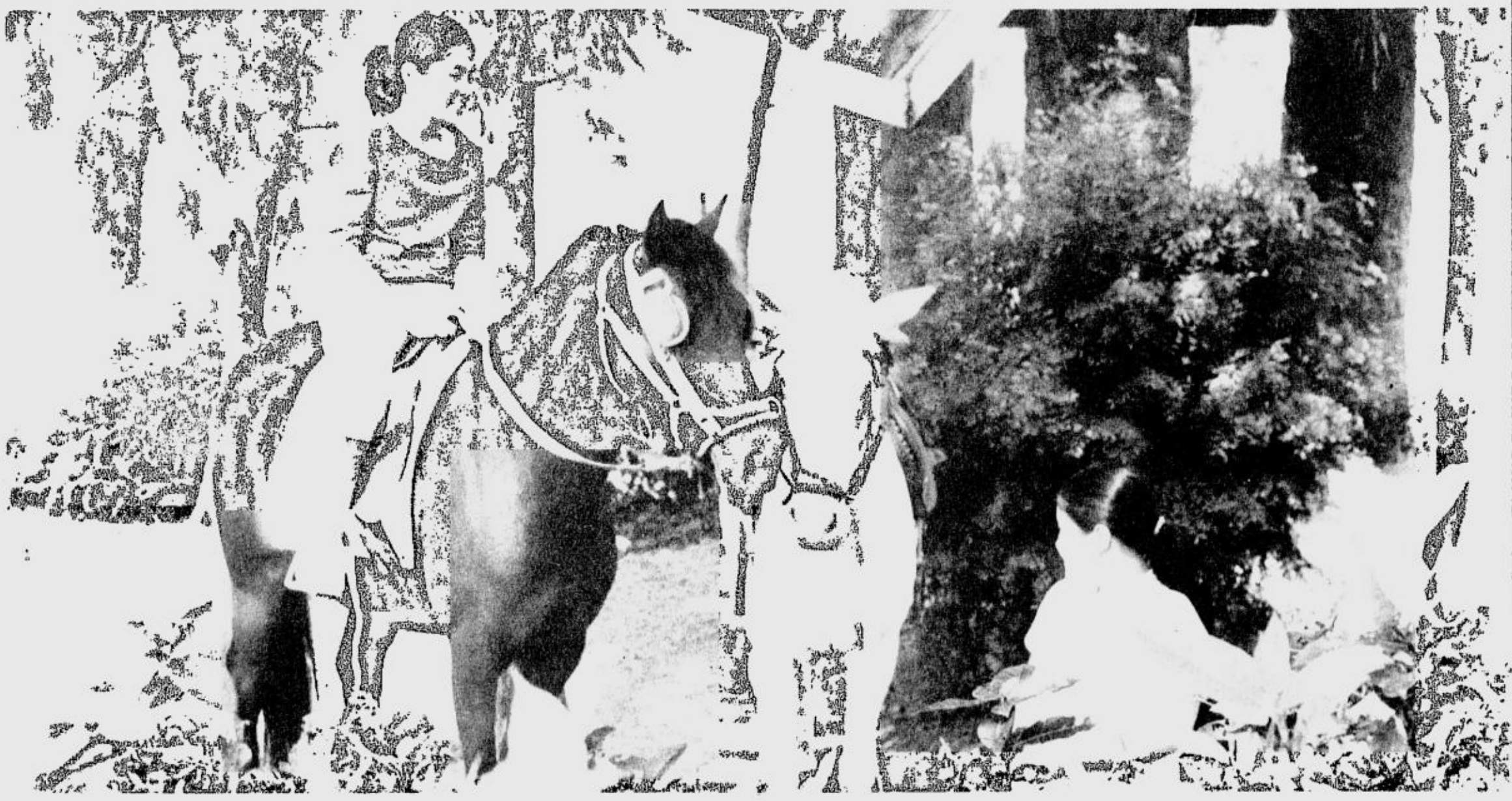
Upstairs are the two bedrooms. The master bedroom has an ensuite toilet with walk-in closet. Both have access to a balcony, to better take in the surrounding "Swiss village." Having an attic for more space is an option for buyers, with the pitched roof allowing for such a space.

Every three-bedroom quadrille unit covers a floor space of 165 sq.m. and is being offered at P5.5 million.

This early, Brittany Bay has sold two of the nine quadrilles. And that was even before Recio+Casas finished soil investigation.

On the way to Tagaytay CrossWinds, the attractions of southern living are evident: flowers and fruits lining the streets, blue skies, cotton-white clouds, fresh air, green expanse, and more green.

Restaurateur Sonya Garcia of Sonya's Garden, a short distance away, enumerates the benefits of life in Tagaytay: "I serve greens freshly picked from my gardens, I don't need air-conditioning, I don't watch TV, I don't buy the papers. Security? I don't need a fence. My people, the people who work for me, are my human fence."



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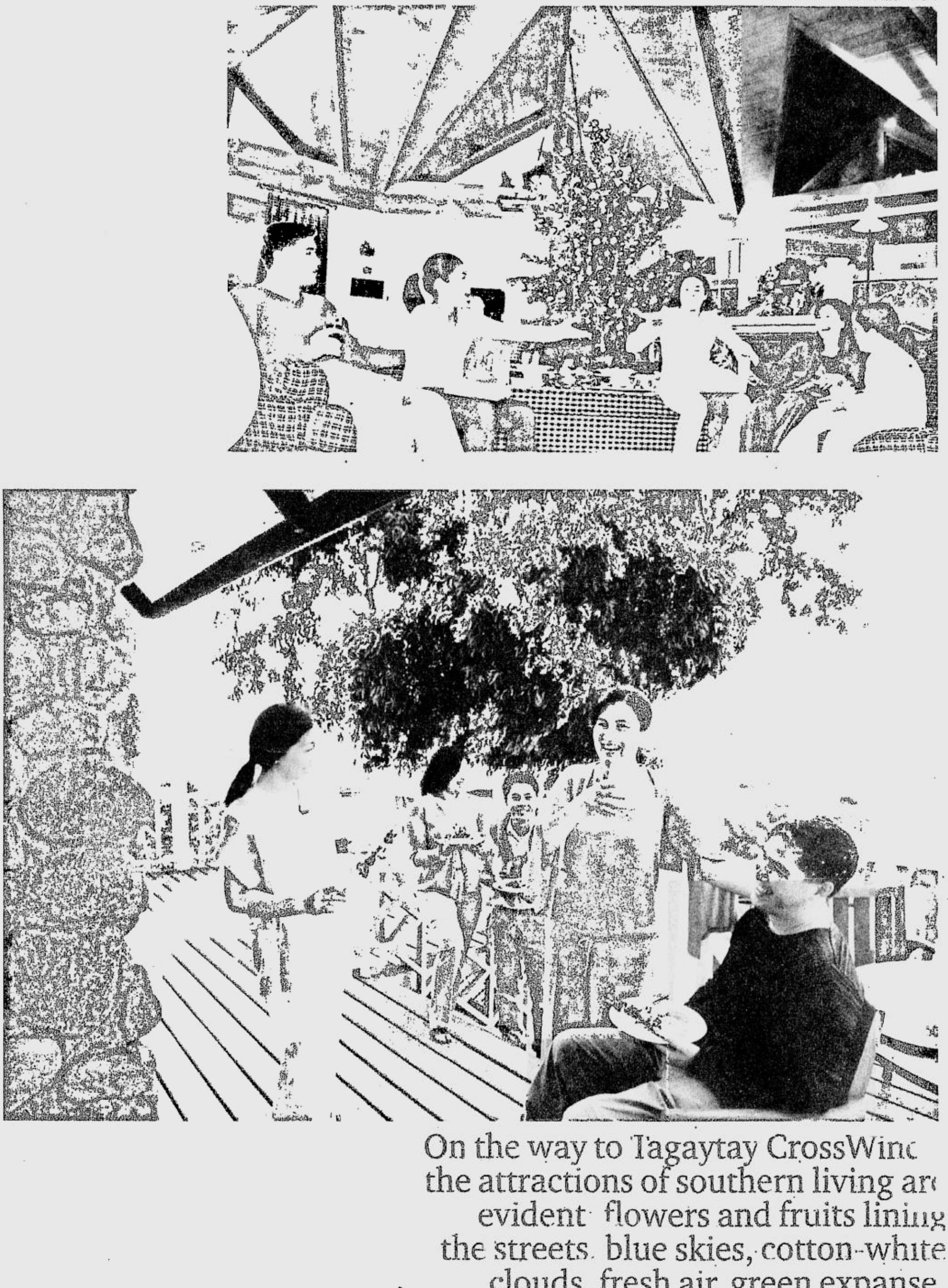
MODELS: CAPT. RAMON B. MITRA III WITH WIFE MARY ANN FRANCISCO AND CHILDREN MONICA, THEA AND MONINA
MAKEUP: WILLIAM MONTOJO
KNITWEAR MADE FOR ELAN SHOOT: LULU TAN-GAN



On the way to Tagaytay CrossWinc
the attractions of southern living ar
evident flowers and fruits lining
the streets. blue skies, cotton-white
clouds. fresh air, green expanse
and more green

MERE 90-minute drive from Metro Manila is Tagaytay City, a ridge community that is the alternative to the traditional Summer Capital of Baguio.

During the 1896 Revolution, the town—with its forests and winding terrain—became a refuge for Katipuneros. They called the movements to and from the towns via Tagaytay as *"mananagaytay"* which means "traversing the ridges."

Before it became known as Tagaytay City in 1938, it was a mountain town with a population of 300 families. Land was acquired from Cavite and Batangas.

During World War II, Lt. Gen. William Kreuger's army parachuted down military supplies to people on the ridge up till Manila's liberation from the Japanese.

In 1953, the mayor envisioned it to be a city that worked. Manila's elite started building vacation homes in the '70s and by 1990, commercial establishments stood around the old Silang rotunda, and townhouse estates studded former pineapple fields.

Despite Tagaytay's laid-back lifestyle, a minor real estate boom is filling up the landscape with commercial and residential buildings, condos, ranch-style homes, housing subdivisions and new restaurants.

Still it is dubbed "Nature City," famous for such attractions as the Taal Valcano, Taal Lake, mountain mist, flora and fauna. There are other natural sights, such as the 13-hectare Picnic Grove which offers ponies for hire; the controversial Palace in the Sky that offers a sweeping panorama of the city; the Residence Inn which has a mini zoo, a seafood restaurant and playground; the Japanese Friendship Garden; and the Tagaytay Highlands.

There are places of historical significance, too—the Lourdes Church on Aguinaldo Highway; the Franciscan Sisters' gray chapel; St. Anne Shrine with a life-size statue of St. Anne and St. Mary which is said to heal the sick.

Holiday-makers can enjoy trekking, horseback riding and golfing, and camping as well.

-s-

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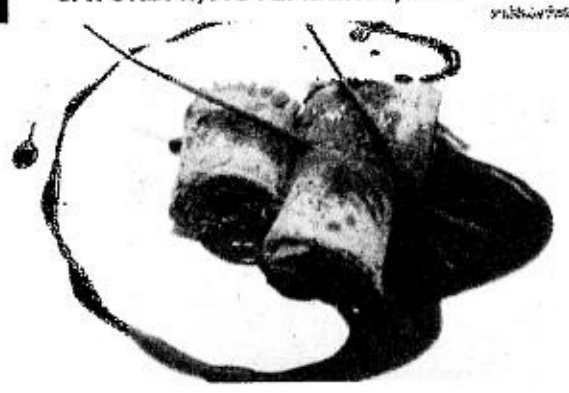
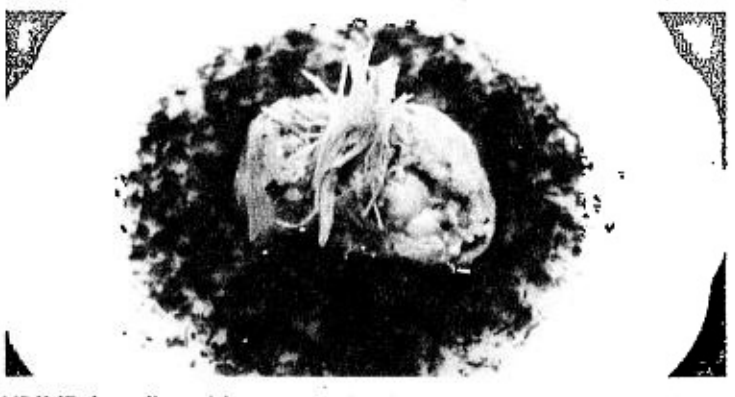


FISH fillet wrap with green noodles, drenched in cream-based unagi sauce



SHRIMP dumpling with oyster and wakame soup, made with bonito stock, adorned with cabbage

Something new, something old

By Amando Doronila

AFTER sticking for several months to the same menu, Wasabi Restaurant, which has served a loyal Philippine clientele for more than three years, recently introduced new dishes that depart from the usual tempura, sashimi, sukiyaki, teppanyaki, and smoked eel routine.

Surely, the cuisine has not waned in popularity as attested to by the still growing number of Japanese restaurants in Metro Manila. How to distinguish itself from the rest was the challenge for Wasabi. It has attracted the younger set, but even within this specific group and for those accustomed to the conventional fare, there was a need for innovation.

Some weeks ago, Freddie Carmona, one of the proprietors, introduced the changes. Wasabi in Makati is a branch of a restaurant of the same name in Hawaii—a foothold of Japanese gastronomy on account of its large Japanese population, and also because of the availability of sea food, and fish, which are the foundation of Japanese cooking. Freddie has brought in a new Japanese chef, Noboru Ozeki, to do the innovation.

The new dishes include Ebi Shinjo, oyster and shrimp dumplings in a Wakame bonito stock; Lapu-lapu Edamame Go Giru, or steamed white fish in a miso Edamame soup; misono-style grilled US rib-eye beef served with vegetables; and Grilled Wasabi Chicken, marinated in a special wasabi pepper sauce and served with mashed potato.

Except for the beef, the new dishes are all light. The grilled chicken is a novelty on account of the wasabi pepper sauce marinade, which gives it a distinctive flavor. The dumplings are set in a gelatin-like stock that has the color of seaweed and was so delicious, we scooped it. Lapu-lapu is a versatile fish, whether it is cooked Chinese-style, or as fillet in Western cuisine. But at Wasabi, it acquires a Japanese accent through the miso Edamame soup.

We asked for an old reliable recipe from the old menu—grilled *saba* (Japanese mackerel), which has no equal among local fish. *Saba* is shipped from Japan and is a little oily, which makes it taste like Portuguese sardines in olive oil, although *saba* is more delicious.

The new dishes are now on the menu, but the a good part of the old menu has been retained.

Wasabi is located at Olympia Bldg. 7912 Makati Ave. corner Sto. Tomas St., Makati City. For reservations, please call 840-4223.

> Wasabi is not resting on its popularity; it recently introduced some delicious innovations

VEGETARIAN steam soy bean gindara with taro and ginger and miso paste

ÉLAN

Odyssey in oil

ODYSSEY '70, a collection of recent oil paintings by Florencio B. Concepcion, is on exhibit at the new Avellana Art Gallery until Dec. 9. FB Concepcion graduated from the University of the Philippines School of Fine Arts in 1953 and pursued further art studies in Academia di Belle Arte, Rome, Italy.

Avellana Art Gallery is located at House A-19, 2680 F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 7p.m., Mondays to Saturdays. For details, call 833-8357.

ONE GREAT THING AT CROSSWINDS THIS CHRISTMAS– THE TREES ARE REAL.

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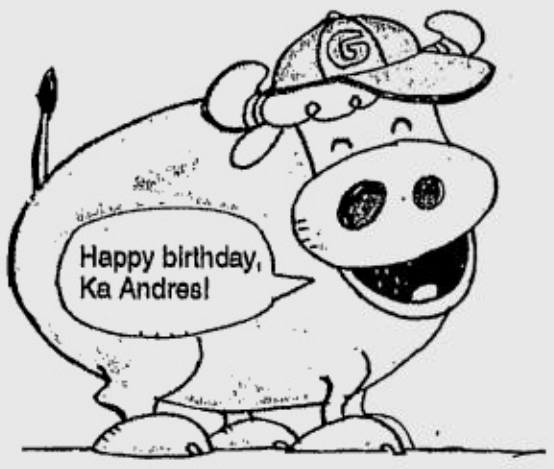

Junior INQUIRER Special

E-mail: pr_junior_inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2003 ✦ 8 PAGES ✦ VOLUME I, NUMBER 7

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- Shirley's Pets, Atomo and Weboy, and The Lunch Box — Page 8

Bohol Bio-adventure

Science Club kids converge for fun experiments and adventures in the island of Bohol

By Astrid Tobias

SCHOOL was out for the sem break but that didn't stop lots of kids from learning. Down at a beach in Bohol, the kids weren't frolicking in the water; they were taking down notes and listening intently to the teacher in front of them.

It may sound outrageous to you but you'd believe it if you've attended this year's Children's Science Interactive Workshop (CSIW), organized by the Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs Inc. Last Oct. 20-24, it was held at the Dumaluan Beach Resort in Panglao Island in Bohol. A total of 487 students from 83 schools all over the Philippines came to attend the workshop. Many of them were members of the science clubs in their schools back home.

For four days, the participants learned so many new things about biology. They listened to lecturers talk about different topics like Anatomy, Zoology, Ecology, and Botany but they learned them in a fun way.

Magic & Jellyfish

Twelve-year-old Ephraim Insular, or Otoy as his friends call him, of Presbitero Central Elementary School, North Cotabato said one of his favorite lecturers was Dr. Rafael Bundoc of the UP College of Medicine. One reason is because he performed magic in front of them before beginning his lecture about the human body.

Twin brothers Brix and Cyril Cris Rapiz of Kidapawan City Pilot Elementary School SPED Center, North Cotabato, on the other hand, were the ones who amazed Dr. Agustus Mamaril when he delivered his lecture about Zoology. Just as Dr. Mamaril was discussing about jellyfishes, Brix and Cyril raised their hands and shared the box jellyfish and the Portuguese Man-of-War were two of the most poisonous kinds of jellyfish.

NATURE'S LABORATORY. Where better to learn about life than in beautiful Bohol? Sisiws check out the Chocolate Hills. RUDY ESPERAS

Awesome Field Trip

Later, Brix and Cyril explained that they really enjoy watching science shows on the Discovery Channel and the National Geographic back home.

But the CSIW was not just about lectures. There were also workshops after lectures to make sure the students absorbed what they just heard. Each night, there were also socials were everyone got a chance to show their talents to their newfound friends.

The best part of CSIW was the field trip. The participants visited the Philippine Tarsier and Wildlife Sanctuary where they saw a real live tarsier in its natural habitat. Tarsiers are cute tiny primates that measure about 4 to 5 inches only. They have large eyes and tails that are longer than their bodies. At the sanctuary, they also met the Tarsier Man, Kuya Lito Pizzaras, who has spent more than 30 years taking care of the tarsier.

Tarsier Time

"I learned it was not a monkey," said 9-year-old Danes Derrick Dolz of Tabaco Northwest Central School, Albay, Bicol.

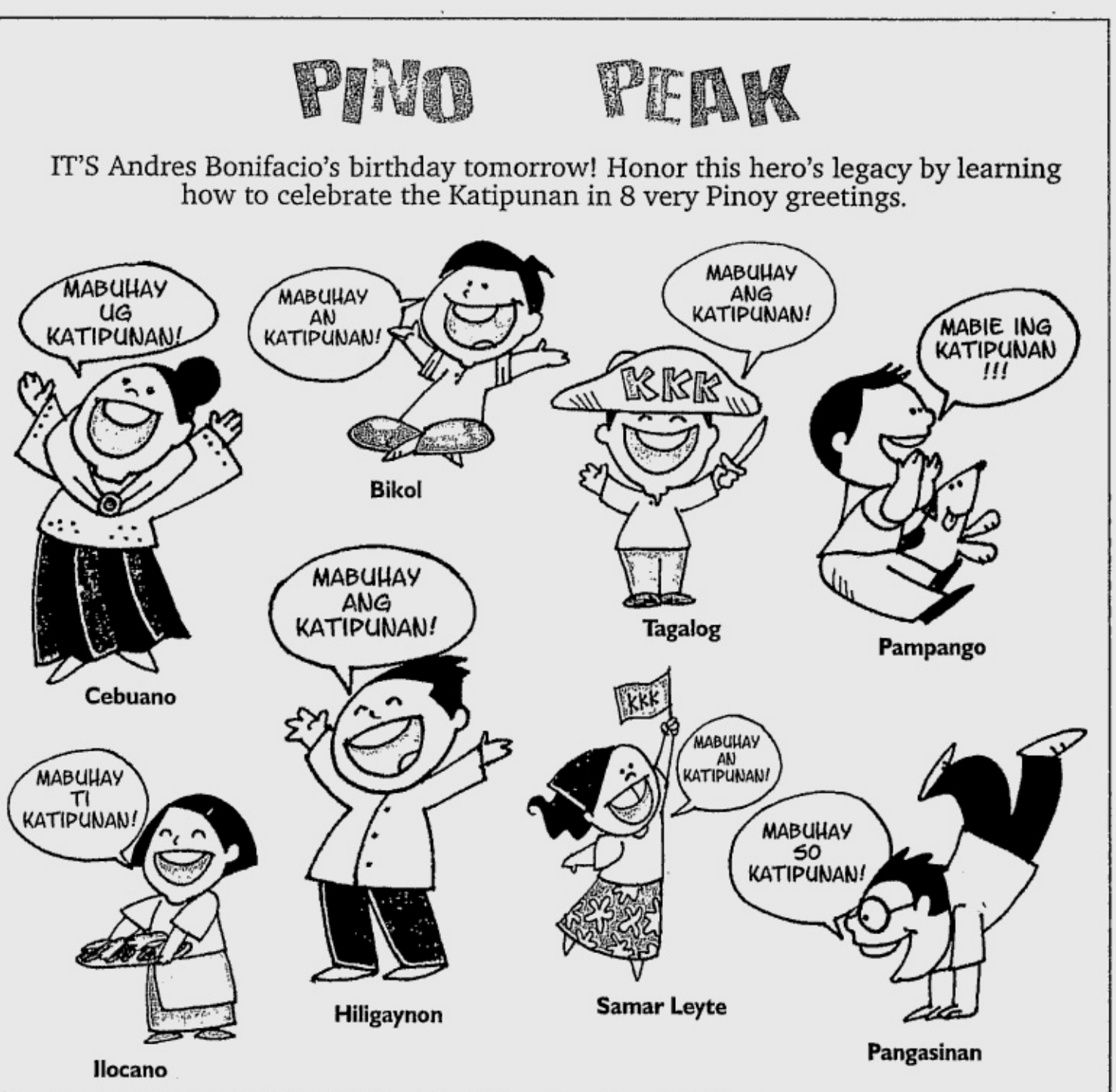
Grade 6 student Liza Templanco of San Francisco Pilot Elementary School, Agusan del Sur commented that she was happy to know that people from Bohol are doing something to protect the environment, especially the tarsier.

"I really felt lucky," said Liza. "Tarsiers are very rare now and not everyone gets the chance to go to Bo-

Bohol/ p. 7

PINO PEAK

IT'S Andres Bonifacio's birthday tomorrow! Honor this hero's legacy by learning how to celebrate the Katipunan in 8 very Pinoy greetings.



Courtesy of the translation division of the Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino under commission chairman Dr. Nita Buenaobra.

ART BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Bonifacio was a cool kid

By Eline Santos

ANDRES Bonifacio has always been known as the founder of the Katipunan, its Supremo who led the fight for freedom against the Spaniards about a hundred years ago.

But he was not only a hero, he was a terrific kid as well.

Andres was born on Nov. 30, 1863 to Santiago Bonifacio and Catalina de Castro.

He liked to bathe in the Pasig river with his cousins and friends. They had picnics near a lighthouse and would take rides on banca boats.

Andres started his own theater group, the Teatro Porvenir, and put up plays on his favorite character Bernardo Carpio.

Among Andres' friends were future heroes Emilio Jacinto and Macario Sakay.

When he was just 10 years old, Andres was orphaned. Being the eldest of six siblings, he had to start working. He made paper fans, wooden canes, and took on other jobs as well.

He was also a book lover and read during his free time.

A responsible and hard-working *kuya*, a creative mind, and a good friend, Andres Bonifacio was really a terrific kid before growing up to be a hero.

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Child-Friendly Awardee UNICEF PPI CHILD FRIENDLY NEWSPAPER AND JOURNALIST AWARDS

2003 Best Children's Newspaper Awardee

Adventures

WOW! It's November already? Pretty soon, it'll be Christmas and then the year 2004 will be finished. Our questions are: what have you done this year? What adventures did you have?

You'll find lots of stories about adventures in this month's issue of Junior Inquirer Special. First, there's Astrid Tobias' report on Science Club kids who trooped to the island of Bohol for some learning and fun. That must have been such a treat. All that fresh air, the sea, the sand and lots of other kids to make friends with.

Then we have two short stories: one is about an enchanted forest and the other is about a grade school student who wanted to see a ghost. Check them out on our centerspread.

Finally, we have stories about a robotic chair, bioluminiscent fish and a Santa Claus Olympics in our World Scope section.

All of them, stories worth repeating and telling your friends about.

What where your adventures this year? Did you do anything interesting on your school breaks and the holidays?

Write them down and send your essays to us. We always have room for well-told tales of great adventures.

WE need writers

IF YOU'RE 10-12 years old and can write very good essays, news and feature stories, we would like to hear from you! Write a 200-300 word essay about your most memorable experience in school and send it to the editor at nvizcarra@inquirer.com.ph with your contact details.

Thoughts on Writing

By Maniya Parungo
Grade 6-Dilaw
Miriam Grade School, Quezon City

TODAY Oct. 4 is Grade 6 Family Day. But it's not until 3 p.m.

The last few weeks, my classmates and I had been getting ready for this event. It's really hard because we need to practice after classes. But you know what, I really, really feel happy whenever we do.

I feel that our dance is very good and we can win the top prize. But what makes me smile every day is knowing that I am doing this for my parents. I also get to know my classmates even better.

Everyday I see students from other sections practicing their numbers and giving their very best. There are only three prizes. But that does not matter at all because when we dance it's because we are happy and because we want to. If we win, we should be humble and if we lose, we should be a good sport and congratulate the winner.

After this event, everyone can and will thank their parents for being fully supportive in whatever we choose to do. We should also congratulate ourselves for making sure we will do our best.

Why Friends Stick Together

By Bianca Claveria
Miriam College Grade School
Quezon City

FRIENDS always stick together when they are in trouble. I have always wondered, why is this so?

Now that I am in Grade 6, I have learned the answer to my question. Drumroll please! The answer is that when friends fight, they understand each other's feelings. It's as if they have some kind of sixth sense and they know what the other person is thinking. Friends understand when their friends are sad, happy or maybe mad at them.

I am not telling you to fight with your friends. Just try to be aware of how they feel. Just remember, friends are people you can trust and love.

[illegible]

By Sct. Carl Vincent Cabanilla
Abra Council

WHEN I was still a child, my father used to speak to me of the life and story of the late US President John F. Kennedy. He was a JFK fan. It was from my father whom I first heard of the late president's immortal words: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do to your country."

This was also my father's philosophy in life. He assured me that the practice of this principle would create in me a love of peace, honesty, charity, truth and justice. The same principle that guided him when he served as the town mayor for 18 months. Inspired by my father, I grew up with his words.

Now, I am savoring the fruits of my endeavors. Being one of the Ten Outstanding Boy Scouts of the Philippines is a milestone achievement, especially for our Council. I always feel elated whenever I see my face in the newspapers or my name in streamers hanging above the streets. I have become an instant celebrity in our place, so to speak.

But then again, I also the feel anxiety, the uncertainty that lies ahead of me. I realize later on that part of winning the TOBS is to meet more challenges, heavier tasks and greater responsibilities, and that I must commit myself in the service of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and of the Filipino people as a whole.

Definitely, winning the TOBS does not just end in grand ceremonies or overwhelming publicity. My conscience orders me to prove to myself that I am worthy of emulation. Although I do not consider myself "outstanding" to the extent that everything I do is excellent, I will always try to be outstanding.

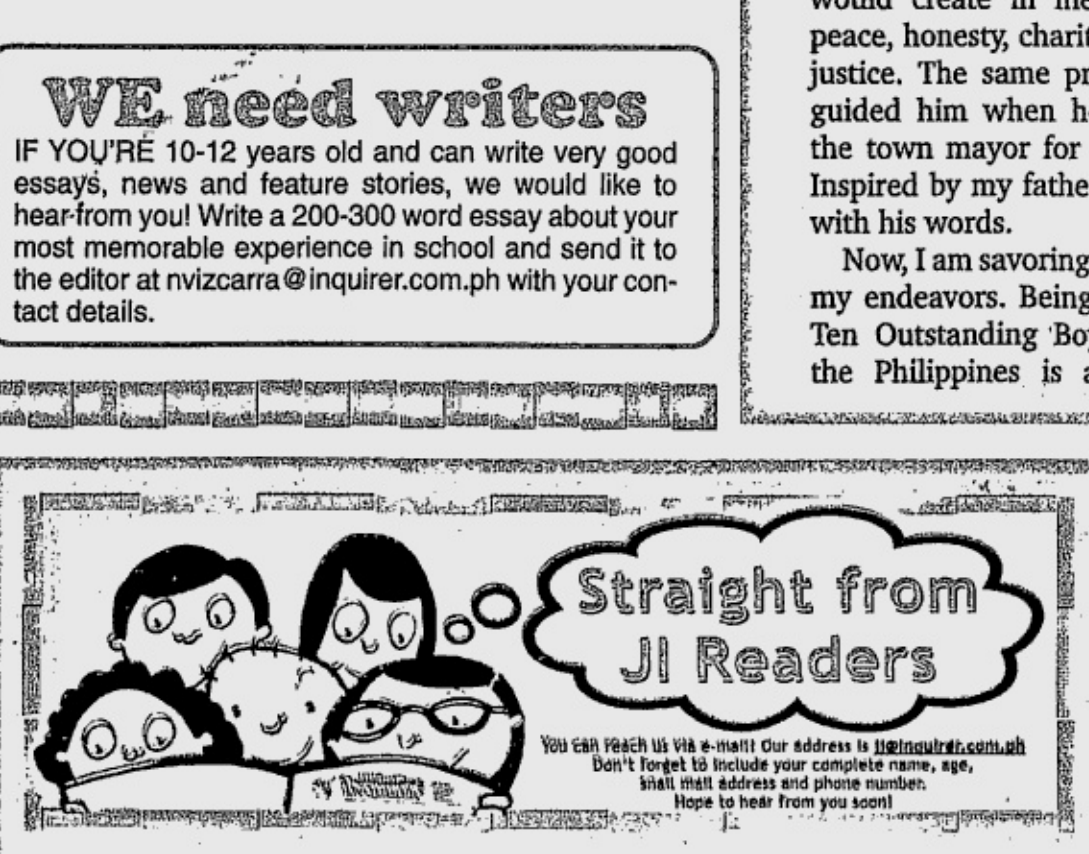
Not so long ago, my father suffered a stroke which eventually crippled him. He is now unable to move his left arm and talks in a muffled voice. But that does not stop him of forever reminding me of true service to God and to man.

This is my calling, for I am an Outstanding Boy Scout of the Philippines and in my hands lies the future of our nation.

Editor's Note: *Essay courtesy of Boy Scouts of the Philippines*

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!



Letter from a Parent

DEAR Editor,
I have a son who is 14 years old and is an avid writer. My sister suggested that we contact you and inquire if there is a possibility for my son to be able to write his articles for your paper.

Please let me know how we can go about applying to do so and what procedures would need to be taken.—**Vivian Tenefrancia, via e-mail**

Dear Ms Tenefrancia,
All your son needs to do is to write about topics which he thinks will interest readers from 8-12 years old and send them to us. We'll pick the articles we like best. Cheers, The Editor

DepEd's New Curriculum—A Torture Device!

TWO Grading periods down and two to go for us to graduate.

But this Third Grading Period seems like a nightmare. Why? Effective this third grading, the passing grade will be 80. What a high standard!

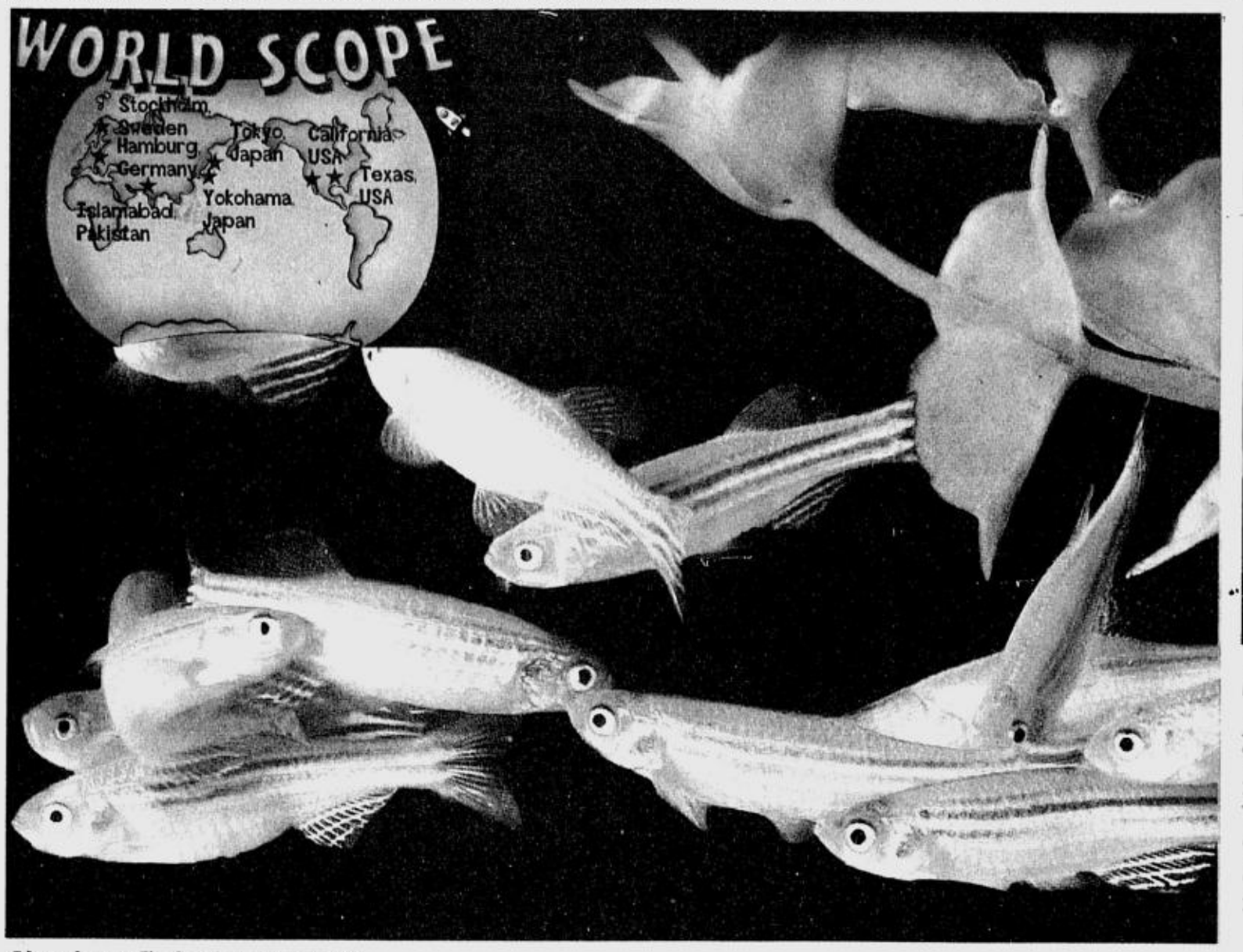
The system goes like this: If you have 5 exams in a subject and you've missed one, your score will be automatically 0 (zero)—not 60 or 70 but zero. Then they will divide the total number of scores into five. How unfair?!

What if you have a valid reason for missing the test? You might think that there are special tests to be given, but not all teachers are considerate, right?

Well, I'm not saying that I disagree with this new curriculum. Let's face it, in every classroom, we have the intelligent ones, the average ones and the slow ones. If some of them suffered for getting a 75 as a passing grade for last year's curriculum, what more for this new curriculum? How awful!

If I were DepEd's chairman—Edilberto De Jesus—instead of proclaiming this new curriculum, I'll just improve the quality of education by giving the students' needs just like books, computers, and other school facilities.

Mr. Secretary—hear us!! Not all youth are in school and it seems that you want to increase their number with this new curriculum. Well, that is reality and unfortunately, it bites.—**PAOLO FLORENCIANO**, IV-Apacible, Pasay City West High School



Mike's the Cat

ACTOR Mike Myers, star of "Dr. Seuss' The Cat In The Hat" arrives for the film's premiere at Universal Studios in Los Angeles. With director Bo Welch and producer Brian Grazer, Myers has collaborated to turn Dr. Seuss' short children's story into an in-your-face comedy. *AP*

Glowing fish for pets?

A LITTLE tropical fish that glows fluorescent red will be the first genetically engineered pet, a Texas-based company said. The zebra fish were originally developed to detect environmental toxins, but Alan Blake and colleagues at Yorktown Technologies, L.P. licensed them to sell as pets. The fish will sell for about $5 (about P300) apiece at US pet stores in January. *Reuters*

Santa Olympics

SANTAS on a train in Stockholm greet a baby passenger. The Santas boarded the train on their way to Gallivare in Swedish Lapland where they will take part in the first ever Santa Winter Games together with Santas from all over Scandinavia. Some of the disciplines in which the Santas will compete are making Christmas presents into parcels, porridge eating and chimney climbing. *AFP*

Walking Chair

A MODEL sits on the prototype of a walking robot that carries humans. The "WL-16," developed by Japan's Waseda University professor Atsuo Takanishi, is the world's first two-legged walking robot that can carry a human being, aiming to enable wheelchair-bound people to go up the steps or move heavy goods on uneven land. *AFP*

Penguin Claus

A VISITOR takes a picture using her mobile phone of the Santa Claus-costumed cape penguin named "Ikepen." The penguin performs in Christmas shows with two others at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise aquarium in Yokohama, Japan. *AFP*

Henna Art

A PAKISTANI woman applies henna on her palm in preparation for Eid festival in Islamabad on Nov. 24. Henna, which is believed to have been used as a cosmetic for over 5,000 years in Egypt and Middle Eastern countries, is a popular form of fashion among the women of the country, especially during the Eid'l Fitr festival which marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. *AFP*

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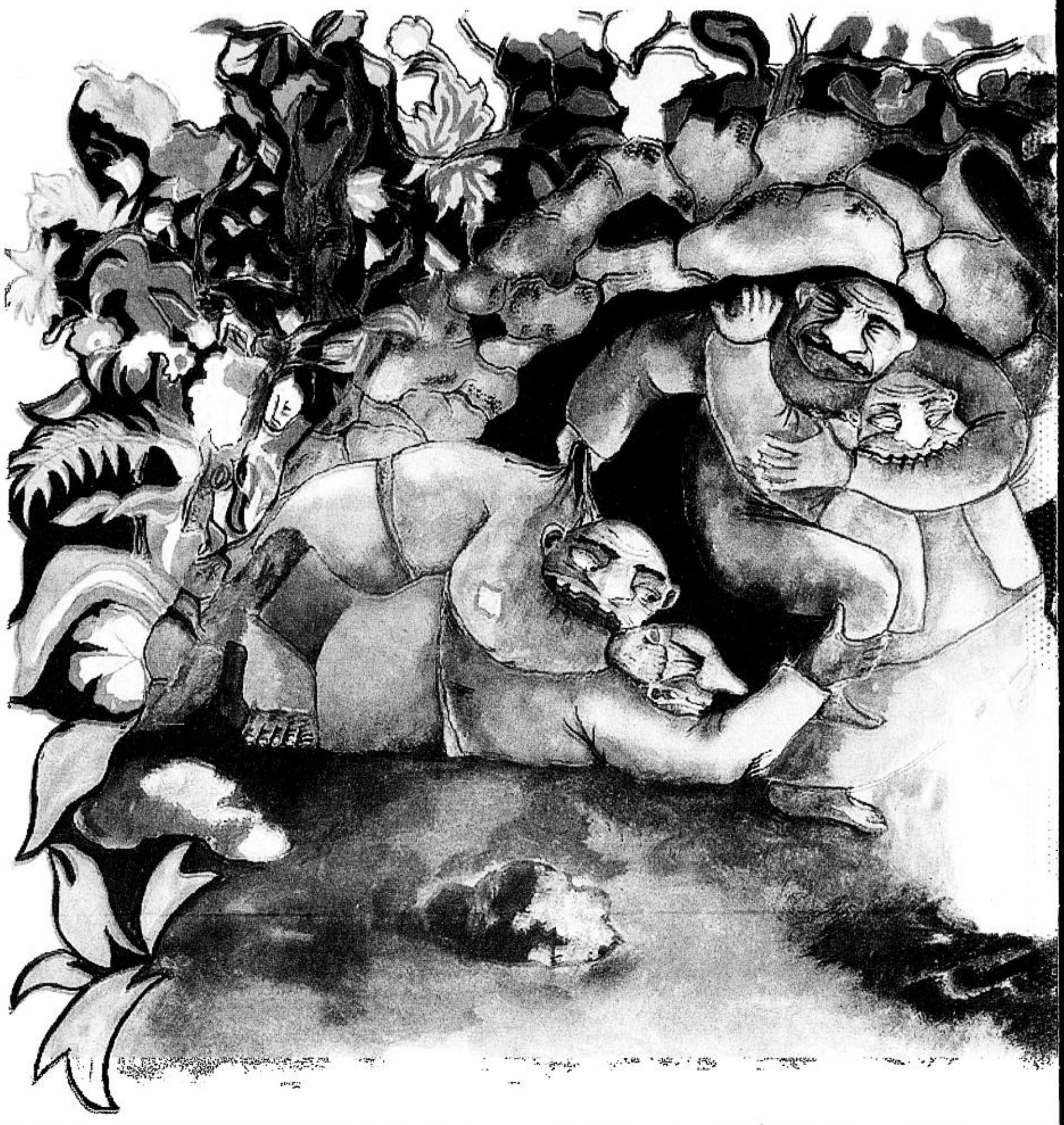
The Enchanted Forest

Story by Rico Garcia
Illustrations by Mitzi Villavecer



THERE was once a man who lived a simple life in a cottage near the forest. He was very happy living in his nice cottage.

One day a pack of wolves chased him out of the cottage and into the forest. He ran as fast as he could and dared not look back. He ran until he reached the river (the only river in the forest).

He looked back to see if the wolves were still chasing him. They were so many, he drove into the icy cold water and the wolves lost scent of him.

When the man got out of the water he remembered that the forest was enchanted although he knew that this was only a legend. But the forest was really enchanted.

As he headed for home, he noticed that there were four paths instead of one (when he looked back to see if the wolves were coming he noticed one path only).

He chose the middle path, and when he reached the end of the path he noticed a giant cave. He slipped on some leaves and two seconds later he was hanging upside down.

Suddenly four trolls came bursting out of the cave with a giant net. The trolls were

Ghost at a Bell's Ring

Story by Marya Salamat
Illustrations by Dindo Llana

NINA was the official bell ringer for the week. It was her job to ring the bell to signal the beginning and end of recess in the morning and in the afternoon. There was a rumor though that the room and the bell were haunted. Each time the bell rings, ghosts sleeping in the Home Economics bedroom would wake up.

The bell is a bronze relic from their town's old church. Nina's classmates say that a group of influential oldies donated that bell to the school. The bell now hangs from a tall, fat pole on the rooftop of their Home Economics or H.E. classroom for short. It is sounded by pulling on an old rope that leads from the bell and dangles limply near the door of the H.E. bedroom.

"Don't even think of trying," Nina's classmates warned her.

"Why not?" Nina would protest brashly. She wanted to know if the stories were true. Her classmates would then exclaim Hail Mary's and Jesus Christ's and make signs of the cross.

Nina figured it would only take ten or twelve steps to get to the much talked about H.E. bedroom from the main doorway.

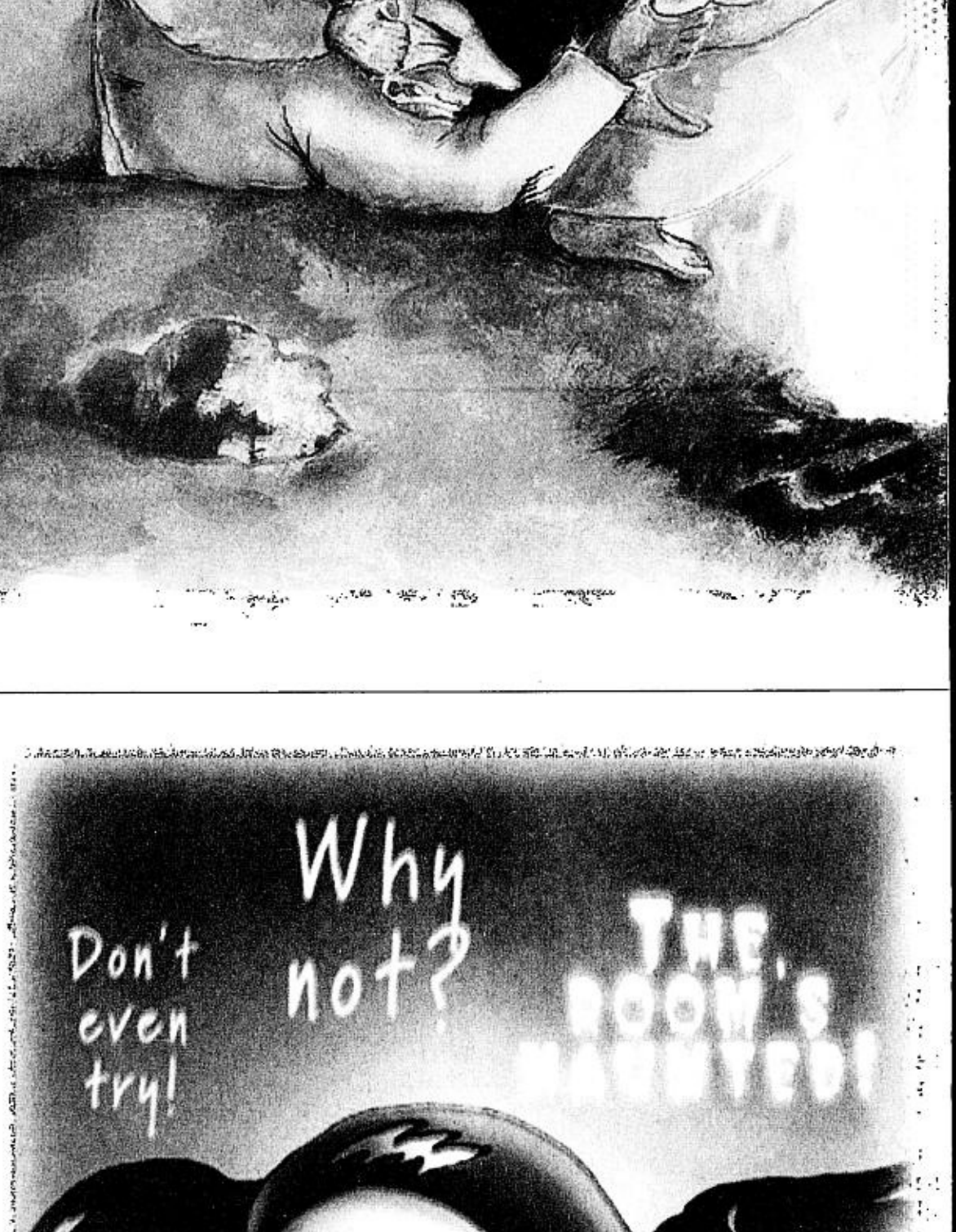
One day in class, Nina and her friends were waiting for recess time.

"Won't you listen?" Jao, Nina's seatmate, whispered to her while the teacher was busy writing on the blackboard. "The room's haunted! Ghosts in there wake up each time you ring the bell!"

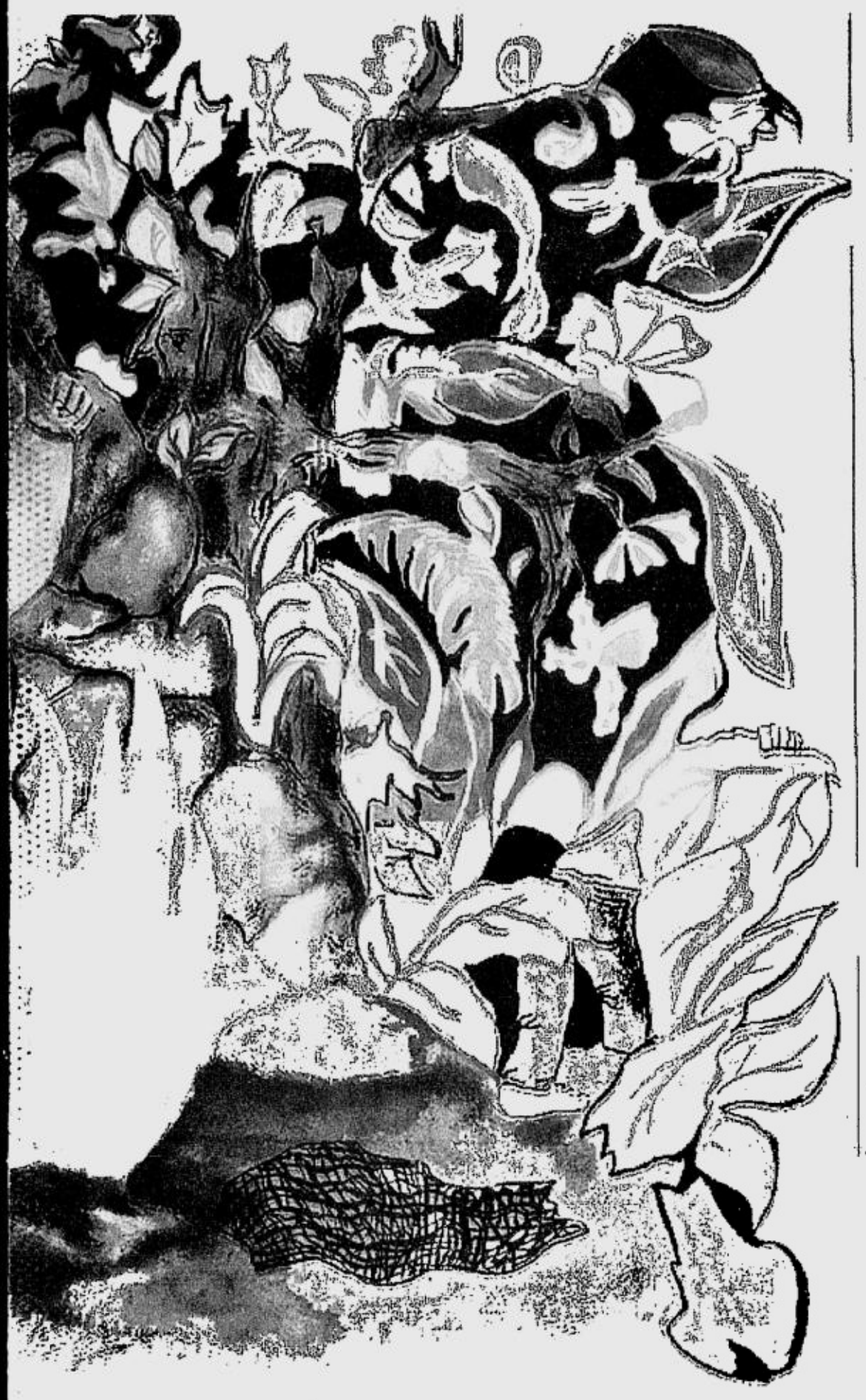
"Didn't you hear about what happened to Anton a week ago?" Jao said. "After a few days of ringing the bell, he saw ghosts lingering near it."

"I hope you're right," she said softly. She reckoned it must be cool to really have ghosts in the H.E. She read a lot and mostly, ghosts in books are cool and intriguing.

But then, ghosts exist only in tales. She wanted to encounter one or two real ghosts. Nina had been ringing the bell twice a day for four days now and there were still no ghosts. She hoped things



"Suddenly, four trolls came bursting out of the cave with a giant net."



going to eat him. They made a giant bonfire. Then the man had an idea!

The man wondered how four giant trolls would eat one small man. He waited for his chance to escape. He listened.

The trolls were arguing as to who would eat him first. They argued and argued and soon they started to fight. The man knew it was his chance!

As softly as possible he tore out of the net and ran away. He ran as fast as he could until he reached a cottage.

He went close to the cottage and he heard someone giggling. He could see eyes in the window so he went closer but he fell into a hole which was covered with leaves. While he was in the hole, he heard them talking about him saying that they were going to eat him that night.

So he tried to get out of the hole. But he kept slipping until he found a vine and used it to get out of the hole.

He ran so fast until he found a map of the forest. He found out that there was a treasure in the river. So he went into the river and dove into the icy cold water.

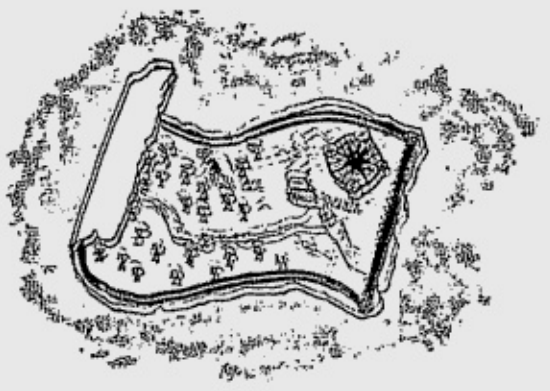
He swam until he saw a crater. He swam to the crater and saw the treasure. But a shark was guarding the treasure. The shark saw him and started to chase him.

The man swam to the crater because he knew that the shark could not fit in the crater and could not stop in time.

Sure enough, the shark got stuck and so the man was able to escape (using the map). He used the money to buy himself a new home and used the rest of the money for charity.

***Rico** is nine years old. He is currently in 4th grade at La Salle.*

***Mitzi** works as an artist/illustrator for Adarna House, Inc. She likes to read, listen to music and collect children's books. She is a member of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (Ang InK).*



Some kids in the other classrooms were watching her from their classroom windows.

would be different today.

When the time came to ring the bell, Nina walked leisurely toward the H.E. As usual, all the graders in the rooms surrounding the H.E. from a distance gawked at her.

The moment Nina climbed the stairs toward the H.E.'s porch though, she noticed that all seemed suddenly to become very still. Even the usual chatter died down.

Nina swiftly crossed the porch toward the main door. Pushing it open, she waited there until her eyes got used to darkness. She saw the tip of the bell's rope, ten steps further.

She took off her slippers. Once Nina's bare foot touched the smooth, shiny floor of the sala, a metallic clang echoed from inside the bedroom.

Nina took another step; another clang and the sound of a heavy object being dragged across the floor. A ball of steel?

Nina looked at the solid wall of the bedroom to her right. She sensed that whoever..whatever was walking inside was probably standing level with her. She took another step, so did the "something." Its footfalls got louder with each step. Nina stopped in the middle of the sala. There wasn't even a breeze but Nina felt cold. She looked outside the H.E. Should she run outside, NOW?

"Cannot be," Nina decided. Instead, she ran toward the rope, all the while hearing the loudest, fastest clink-clank of heavy-metal footsteps reverberating in the H.E.

Three quick tugs of the rope, she barely heard the ringing of the bell. Was she expecting the "something" to come out of the room and tell her... tell her what? Nina ran as quickly as she could out of the H.E., down its stone steps, out toward the flagpole and into the sunshine.

Only then did she look back. Some kids in the other classrooms were watching her from their classroom windows.

Nina's heart slowly came back to beating normally. During the break time she barely ate her snacks. Jao and a kinder Anton and the rest of her classmates listened to her tale.

"I knew it," Anton said. "My grandfather said there used to be prison houses for Pinoy guerillas here in our schoolgrounds. Thousands of Filipinos died and got burned there in 1946."

"In 1946? How?"

"Yup, my grandpa said the Japanese tied up older people in steel chains. They were tortured everyday till one by one they died. Then the Americans came. The Japanese got fiercer. They hacked at the surviving prisoners left and right. Some managed to fight back, to escape and free the others in maximum security."

"That's where the H.E. stands now, where most prisoners had been locked away. But, grandpa said they were much weakened and could not escape fast enough. He said when the Americans arrived, they dropped bombs left and right. One went off where our H.E. now is."

Ohhhhhs and ahhhhs punctuated Anton's tale. Someone chirped, "Maybe the ghosts are hoping that you'll unlock the room?"

'Whew! That's saying more than our history class!" a girl said.

On the way back to their classrooms,

Ghost/ p. 7

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Sporty Lizza

She's awesome in a black belt and in basketball shorts

By Eline Santos

HIYAAA!

She's not a war-freak, just a basketball-dribbling, Taekwondo-kicking girl.

Ten-year-old Maria Ana Eloisa Casañare (or Lizza for short) likes martial arts. It's not for picking fights though.

"It's only for self-defense," says the fifth-grader from the School of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Lizza has joined several competitions and won a few medals. She tied for a bronze medal in the Metro Manila Open Championships in March 2003, and won a silver medal in the First Invitational Marikina Taekwondo Championships this summer.

She's had her losses as well. When she lost a competition by one point, Lizza wanted to quit, but her Dad encouraged her to keep going.

"I'll keep at it for as long as I enjoy it," she says. "Maybe until I get a black belt."

After which, Lizza might give Aikido a try.

Sparring Pals

"When you're competing, you don't feel pain—except if you're hit on the head rather hard," explains this blue-belter.

But even if they kick and hit each other on the floor, everybody's in good terms afterwards.

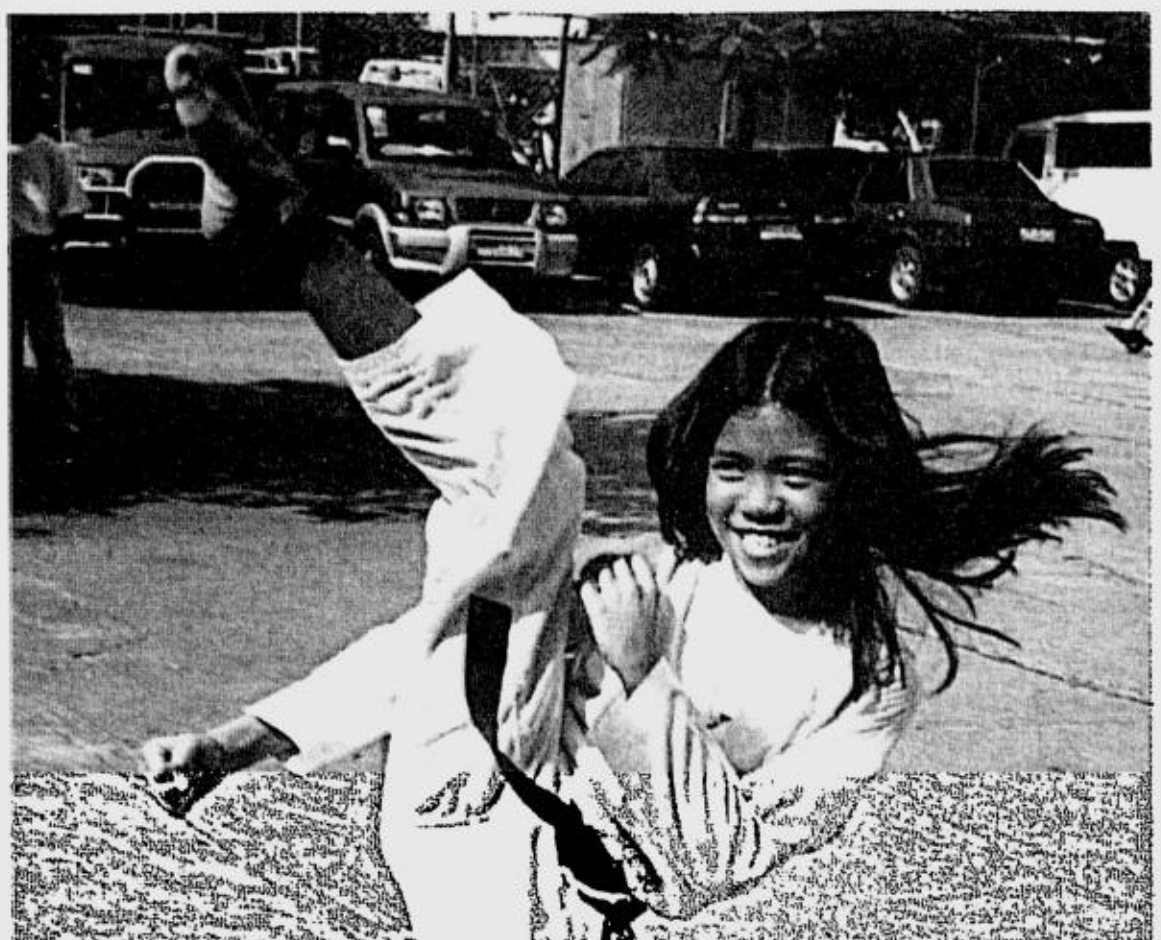
"It's nothing personal," says Lizza who enjoys making friends through sports. "I have plenty of friends. It's fun. And challenging."

Lizza is also a member of their basketball varsity. In her first competition last year in the Intrams, their team won. When Lizza and her big brother are not sparring, they occasionally play basketball together too.

"I just like it," she smiles.

Lizza encourages everybody to try out Taekwondo.

"You learn to protect yourself and it's fun. You'll get challenged. It's only hard in the beginning. But once you're used to it and you learn what Taekwondo is all about, you'll like it."



LIZZA in fighting form before a competition. RUDY ESPERAS

'Rrific!

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rrific' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces corner Yague & Mascardo Sts. 1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kid 'r'rrific

nomination form

I nominate: _____

Age: _____

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because: (Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)

She/he lives at _____

and studies at _____

Her/his contact number is: _____

Sender's Name: _____

Sender's Age & School: _____

Sender's Address: _____

Sender's Contact No. _____

Musical Angel

She plays music for a cause

By Eline Santos

TWELVE-year-old Angelie Celeste Sarreal might actually be a heavenly angel making music on earth.

The sixth-grader from Philippine Normal University, Manila plays the piano and saxophone, but her favorite instrument is the clarinet. The youngest of six musically gifted siblings says she likes it "because the clarinet's voice is sweet and it's very interesting to look at."

Together with her siblings, they sometimes hold concerts and donate the money to a good cause like Children's Hour. Helping out is something Angelie likes to do.

Like her favored instrument, Angelie has a sweet voice as well. Recently she won first place in their school's Kundiman Fest.

"They know I'm up for almost anything so when there are competitions, they ask me to join," she says.

Doing anything includes running in marathons. Angelie won third place in this year's Yakult 10-Miler and 8th place in the Manila Marathon.

The previous year, she was given a special award as the youngest finisher of the 10-K Olympic Day Run.

Every other day, she runs along Roxas Boulevard to train.

"It builds up your strength," she says.

Books are another of her favorite things. Her choices include "The Babysitter's Club," "Charlotte's Web," "Angel Wings," and "The Upstairs Room."

When she has free time, Angelie dabbles in poetry. Some of her poems are about her family or the environment.

Planting trees is something this active girl encourages others to do. She might have gotten upset that the trees they planted three years ago were pulled out for Bush's visit. But at least the trees she planted in Bacolod while mountain climbing are probably still growing.

"The good thing about planting trees is that they lessen pollution and they make a place beautiful," she says.

ANGELIE with her sweet-sounding clarinet BETOY JOHNSON

ANGELIE can play three instruments: the saxophone, clarinet and piano. Her Kuya Pango is her music teacher. BETOY JOHNSON

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Bohol Bio-Adventure (from page 1)

hol and see them."

Of course, their trip to Bohol won't be complete if they didn't visit the famous Chocolate Hills. They went to the town of Carmen where from there, they could see from the view deck more than 1000 hills that spread over the land. During the summertime, when the vegetation on the hills dry up, the hills look very much like they were made of chocolate. When the CSIWs came, the hills were still slightly green.

Candlelight Promises

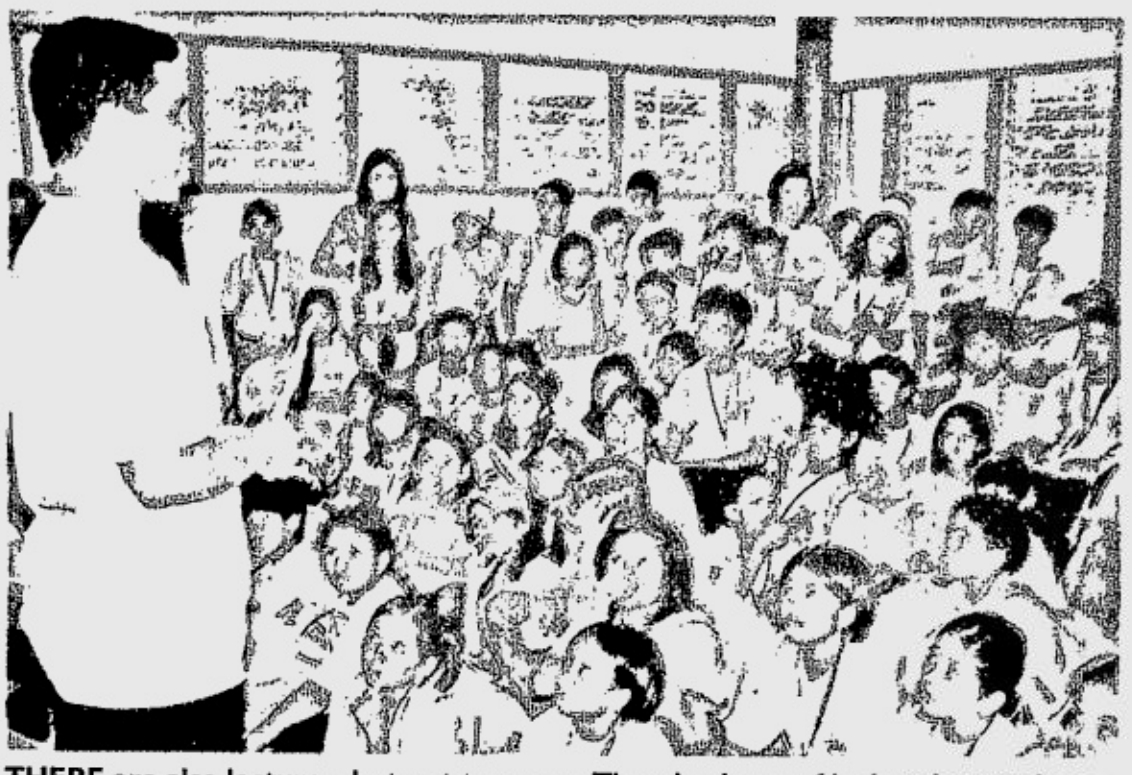
On the last night of workshop, there was a solemn ceremony at the beach. All the participants of CSIW lighted a candle and promised to keep the fire burning for science clubs.

Brix, Cyril, Otoy, Danes, and Liza all promised that when they get back home, they'll share with their classmates, friends, and relatives the things that they learned from CSIW.

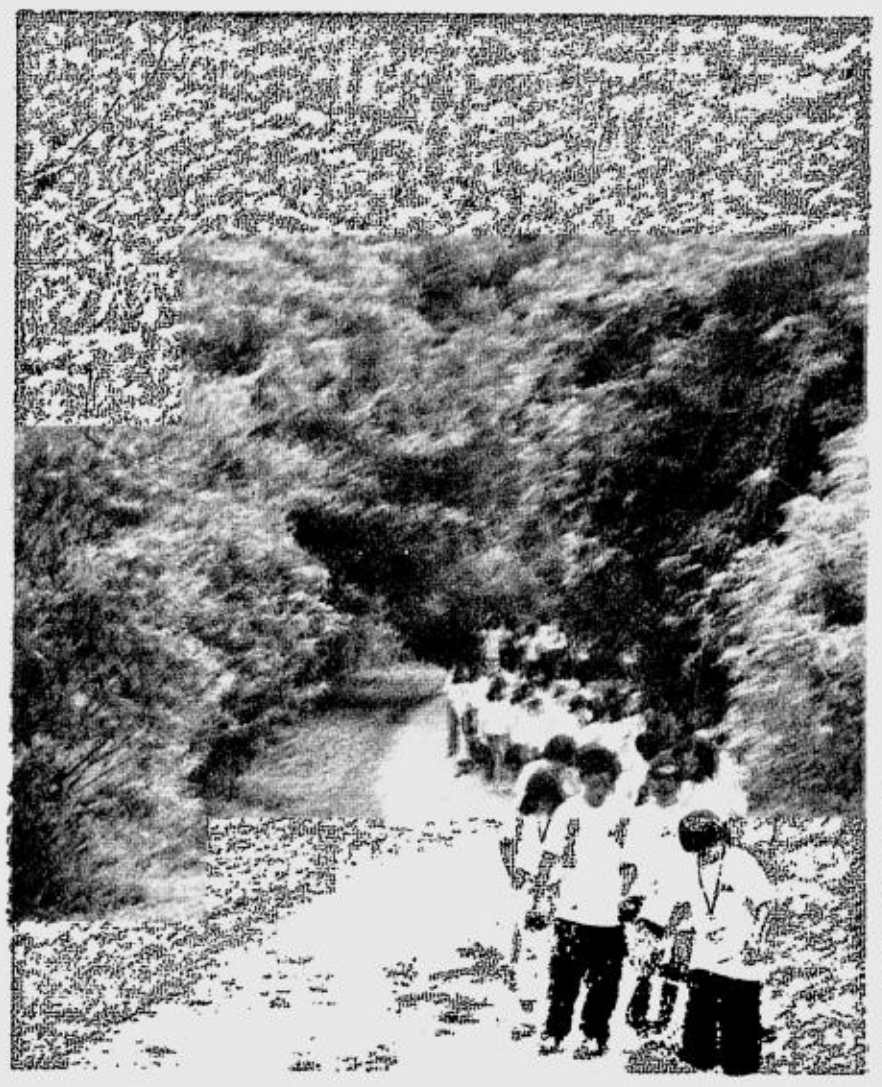
"We will report for those who weren't able to come with us," said Cyril.

"*Pwede namin i-share sa iba kasi hindi tinuturo sa school yung natutunan namin*," added Danes.

WHO'S doing the observing? The workshop participants or the wide-eyed tarsier clinging to the tree? RUDY ESPERAS



THERE are also lectures, but not to worry. There's plenty of icebreakers to keep you from getting sleepy. RUDY ESPERAS



AHHH! Smell that fresh air. Learning about science never felt so good. RUDY ESPERAS

SISIWS light a candle for the environment. Each year, participants pledge to use science and technology in a nature-friendly way. RUDY ESPERAS

Ghost... (from page 5)

they accompanied Nina to the H.E., this time to ring the bell for signaling the end of the morning recess. They entered the H.E. with their heads bowed. Beneath the bell near the bedroom's now opened door, Anton lit a candle.

Marya started writing when she was 15 years old. She won the grand prize in the 2001 Pilar Perez Medallion For Young Literature for her short novel for young adults titled "Mga Ako."

***Dindo** is currently a graphic designer and food stylist at TART. He won the bronze medal in the Art Association of the Philippines Art Competition in 1995. His work "Anna Learns to Swim" was listed in the International Youth Library in Munich and was also a finalist for the 1996 National Book Awards. In 1997, he received the Best Book Design Award from the Manila Critics Circle for "The Secret is in the Sauce." He had a similar ghost experience as Nina's at his elementary school in Ilocos. But a more harrowing experience happened to him a few months ago. His painting for the "Letras Y Figuras" exhibition "Naku!," a parody on controversies and policies of GMA, was censored at the Ayala Museum.*

BUCKLES **BY DAVID GILBERT**

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

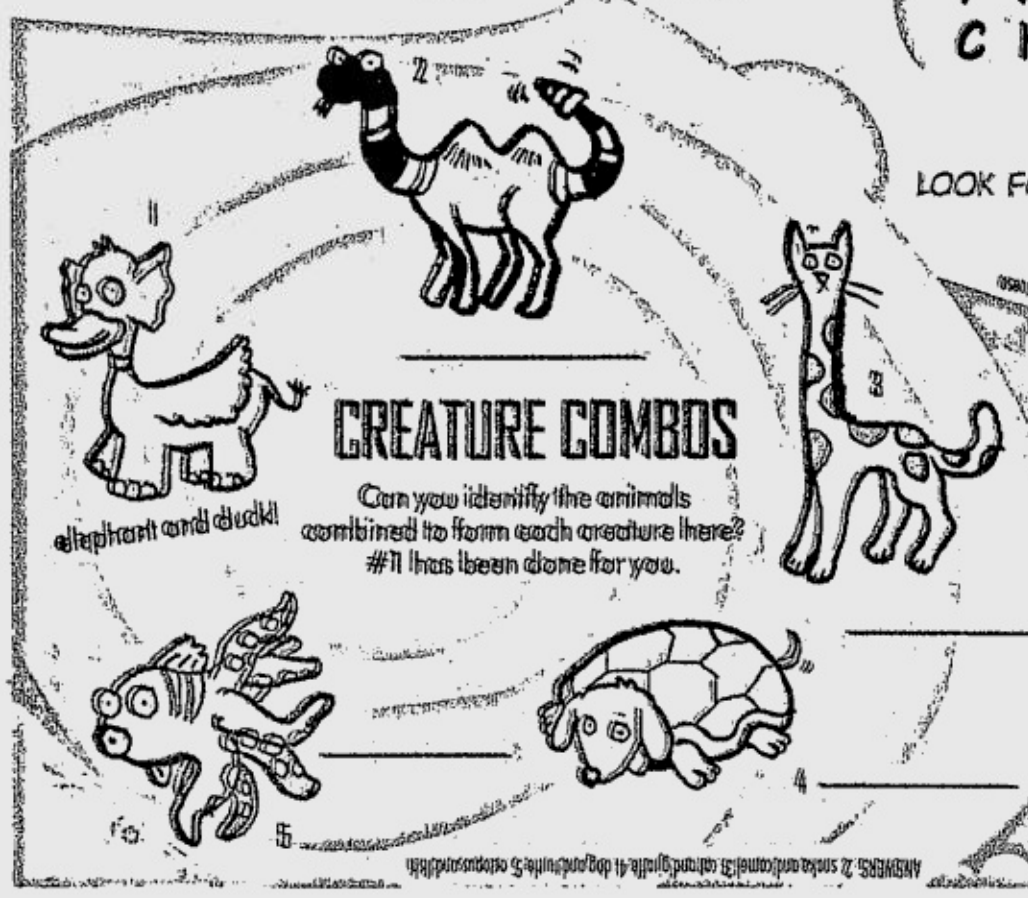
SWEETLY SORBETES!

Sorbetes is the Philippines' equivalent to ice cream, which was concocted in the 1920s. You could spot a sorbetes dealer easily: their carts are always colorful!

M	R	T	C	H	A	C	F	E	R
S	I	I	T	F	U	H	K	U	A
S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y
M	O	C	H	A	E	E	T	E	B
X	M	A	N	G	O	S	A	R	O
V	A	U	U	T	G	E	F	T	O
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	X

LOOK FOR 6 YUMMY FLAVORS!

ANSWERS: chocolate, strawberry, ube, mango, mocha, cheese



CREATURE COMBOS

Can you identify the animals combined to form each creature here? #1 has been done for you.

1 elephant and duck!

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

ANSWERS: 2. snake and camel; 3. camel and giraffe; 4. dog and turtle; 5. octopus and fish

REBUS!

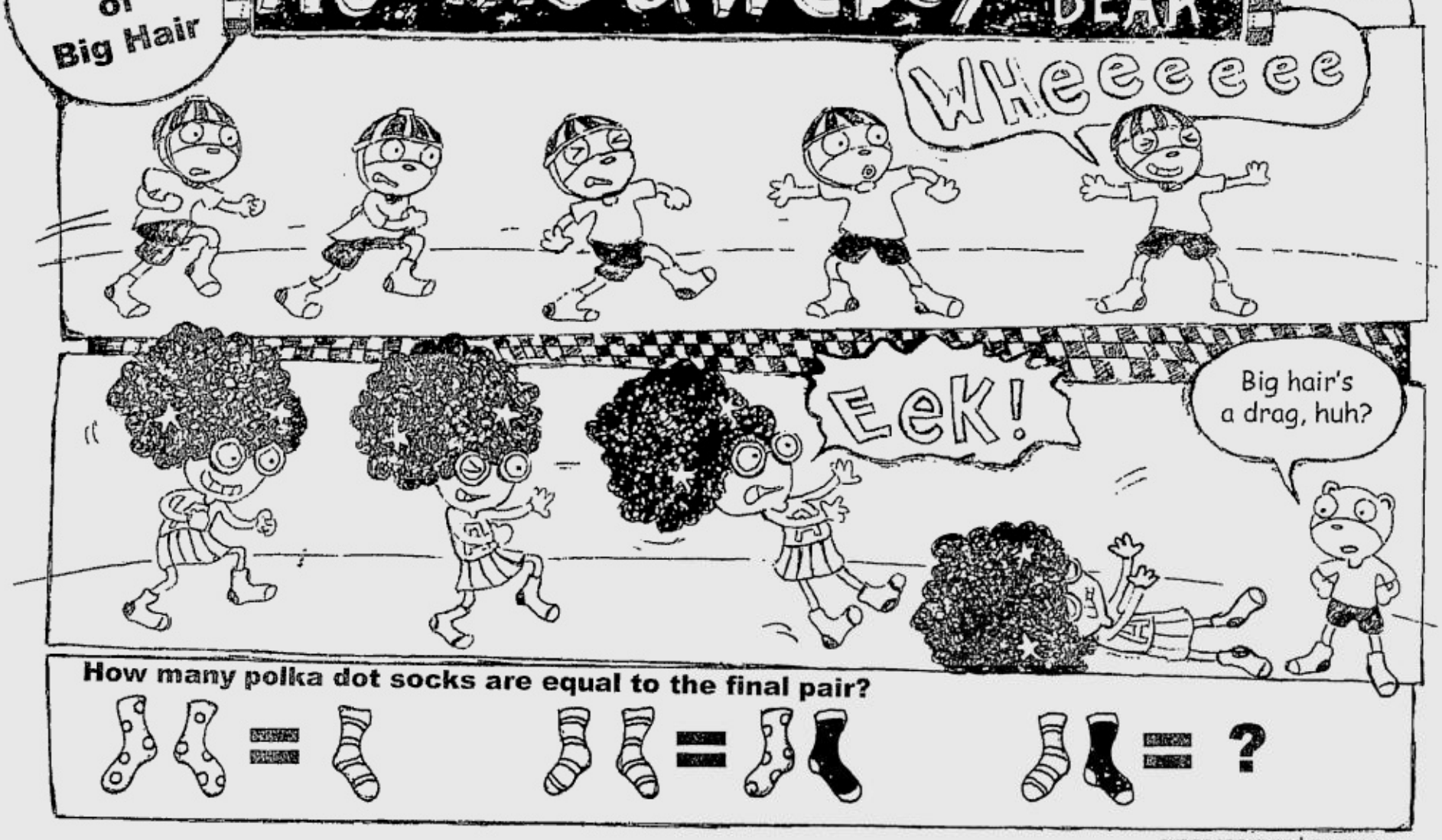
A REBUS is a representation of a word or phrase using pictures. Example, the first puzzle's answer is "head over heels" as the word "head" is on top of the word "heels". Try these other puzzles!

ANSWERS: 1. history repeats itself; 2. you're in quite a state; 3. once in a million; 4. day in day out; 5. split decision

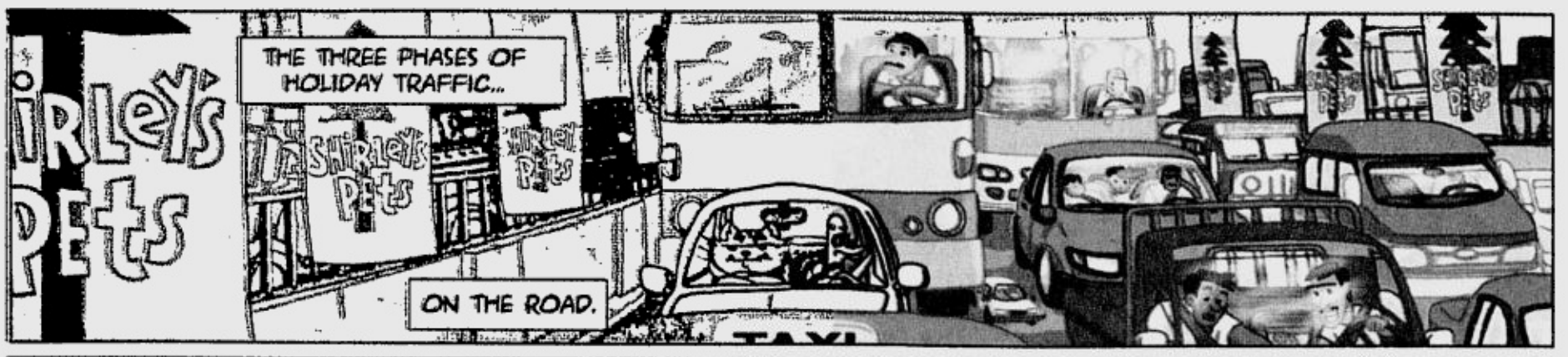
The Perils of Big Hair

Atomo & Weboy BUDDHA BEAR

By Lyra Abueg Garcellano



answer: 5 polka dot socks



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OUT THERE

By Christine A. Paita

Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax number is 897-4794, and our e-mail address is ji@inquirer.com.ph.

Contests

DRAW YOUR HERO. Send your **original artwork** featuring **Biblical characters** from both the Old and New Testament. Winning entries will be shown on "Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible," aired on RPN 9 every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. For more info, call Areen or Don at 759-6340 local 113 or 117.

TAMIYA CAR RACE. Get ready to race with your Tamiya M4WD car in the Let's & Go! Tamiya M4WD Car Racing at the **Cultural Center of the Philippines** on Nov. 30. Open to kids aged 6 to 12 and racers aged 13 and above. For more info, call Creative Products Corporation at 725-0901, 725-0793, 718-2110 or 718-211.

Workshop

CHRISTMAS ORIGAMI ART. The Outlet Yard will hold Christmas Origami Art workshops on Dec. 7, 14 and 21 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. For more info, please call 740-7221 and look for Ms Eleanor Yu. The Outlet Yard is located on Quezon Avenue (near the corner of Scout Borromeo) in Quezon City.

Event

ANGELS OF HOPE. Watch out for the **Sampaguita Performing Group**, an ensemble of 15 young performers from England. They will promote their album **"Children of the World"** on Dec. 26 at Stageworx, 6th Level of Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong and on Dec. 27 at Kidz World in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Sampaguita also performs on Dec. 21 at Storyland SM Southmall, Las Piñas; Dec. 28 at Storyland, SM Fairview, Novaliches; Dec. 22 and 29 at Dreamscape, Robinsons Galleria; Dec. 30 at SM Megamall; Dec. 31 at SM North Edsa; and Jan. 1 at Enchanted Kingdom. Call 724-4832 for tickets.

Cable Picks

NEWS NETWORK FOR KIDS. Check out Kabataan News Network (KNN), a telemagazine show for the youth. **Thirty children from six areas in the Philippines produce all the segments of the show.** KNN'S next airing dates will be on Nov. 29 and Dec. 27, 4:30 p.m. on ANC Channel 21 and Nov. 30 and Dec. 28, 2:30 p.m. on NBN Channel 4.

NAUGHTY OR NICE. Catch the Christmas episode of the **Powerpuff Girls** where Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup come to the aid of children who receive a lump of coal from Santa! Has everyone been naughty this year, or was it just the work of the trio's enemy Princess? Find out on Nov. 29 at 1 p.m. on Cartoon Network.

Macapagal pushing hard for national ID system

Story on PAGE A2

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARL[illegible] VIEWS

November 30, 2003 ★★ 128 pages 18 sections / vol. 18 / no. 555 P15

Christmas goes to the dogs, cats, and other pets

WASHINGTON—From edible greeting cards to rubber chew toys in the shape of George W. Bush, America's 40 million pet owners have lots to choose from when shopping for holiday gifts for their animal friends.

Domestic pets slightly outnumber human beings in the United States, with 350 million pets to 280 million people, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturers' Association (APPMA).

Pets can be found in 62 percent of American households, with cats the most popular (77.7 million), followed by dogs (65 million), small animals, birds, reptiles and fish, the trade group said.

And Americans' love for their furry, feathered and finned friends fed $31 billion in sales in 2003—up 500 million from last year—according to APPMA, which groups more than 500 pet product manufacturers and importers.

The pet product industry has outpaced the candy industry, with $24 billion in sales, and the human toy industry, at $20.3 billion, the group said.

Food purchases top the US pet budget

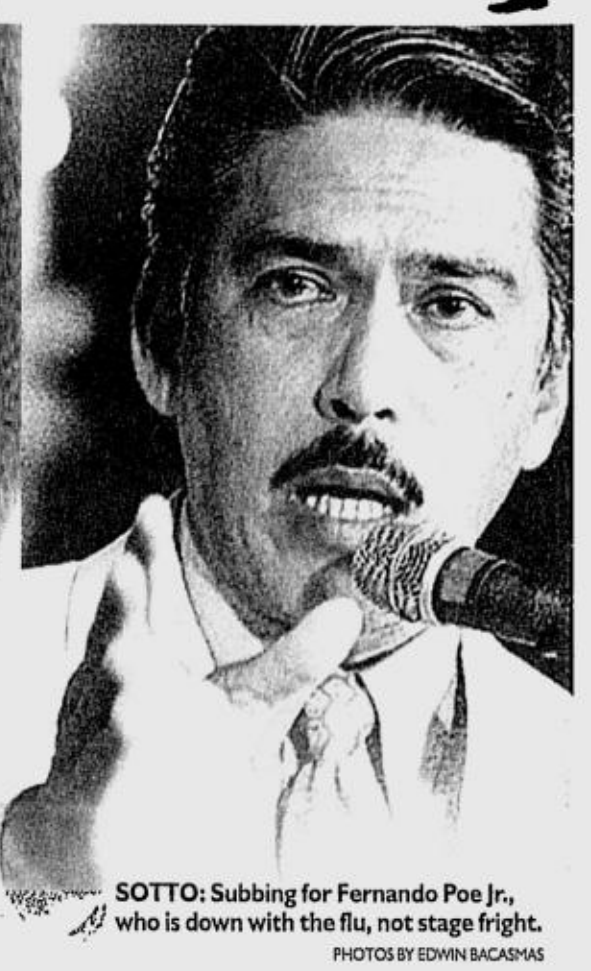
CHRISTMAS/ A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ To a boxer dying
SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE
■ Top 10 reasons FPJ is running
LIFESTYLE, J1

ROCO: Free education elementary and high school for all; an agenda of **HOPE.**

LACSON: Justice, law and order in first 180 days of his presidency.



SOTTO: Subbing for Fernando Poe Jr., who is down with the flu, not stage fright.

PHOTOS BY EDWIN BACASMAS

Economy takes backseat

Roco, Lacson bare platforms; FPJ a no-show

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FACED with a resurgence in kidnappings and bank robberies coupled with the growing drug menace, the country's top businessmen had to let economic issues take a backseat in this year's biggest gathering of the captains of industry to seek solutions to these problems which have driven investors away and hobbled the economy.

In the past, businessmen traditionally expected the President to make policy statements on economic issues when addressing their annual business confab.

But at this year's 29th Philippine Business Conference which ended yesterday, businessmen were more concerned with the worsening peace and order situation and rampant corruption in government and how the government or the incoming administration would address these critical issues.

"Everybody agrees that unless you address the fundamental issue of peace and order and corruption, the economic programs will not fly," Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice president Peter Favila said.

Employers Confederation of the Philippines president Donald Dee said the elections would be won and lost on the basis of how voters perceive the candidates' plan to restore peace and order and eradicate corruption.

"These are the issues that touch the Filipinos more personally than the economy because they are affected by the rising criminality, and corruption is a scratch on the face of Filipinos because foreigners would think we have no morality," Dee said.

Addressing the business gathering on Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo devoted a big chunk of her speech to her plans to stem the alarming rise in kidnappings and bank robberies, particularly in the metropolis.

Aside from Ms Macapagal, the PCCI, the confab's organizer, had also invited other presidential aspirants to present their respective platforms of government to the businessmen.

PCCI president Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr. said the business community hoped that

ECONOMY/ A22

Negros twins, still joined, back to old playful selves

NEW YORK—A set of playful 19-month-old conjoined twins from the Philippines were released from hospital on Friday after completing the second in a series of operations to separate them.

Carl and Clarence Aguirre, who are joined at the top of their heads, left the children's hospital at Montefiore Medical Center four days after the most recent procedure that doctors hope will eventually lead to a full separation.

"The boys are wide awake and back to their old playful selves, keeping their mother, Arlene, busy at their bedside trying to keep them from crawling out," said Dr. David Staffenberg, chief of pediatric plastic surgery at the children's hospital and one of the lead surgeons. "More important than anything else is that there are no signs of neurological problems."

The twins are headed back to Blythedale Children's Hospital in Valhalla, New York, where they will undergo nutritional and physical therapy until they return to Montefiore for the third and possibly last separation procedure sometime in early February, Staffenberg said.

NEGROS/ A4

A TEACHER'S TRIUMPH

'I dreamt of stars; I got a planet'

The following are excerpts from a speech delivered by the author, a multi-awarded teacher from Iloilo, last Oct. 24 during the Best Practices Forum sponsored by the San Miguel Corp. at the Edsa Shangri-La hotel.-ED.

By Josette T. Biyo

I AM here to talk about "The Power of the Human Spirit." Indeed, the human spirit has no limits. If you dream big, and you have the determination and the will to pursue your dream, it will become a reality.

I dreamt of making stars; I was given a planet.

A few months ago, I was featured in local, national and international newspapers. I caused a stir as the first Asian teacher to win the Intel Excellence in Teaching Award in an international competition held last year in the United States.

But I think what created waves was the fact that I am a Filipino, and I defeated 4,000 other teachers from around the world, including the American finalists in their hometown. Because of this, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory in Boston named a minor planet in my honor.

There is now a Planet Biyo, located between Mars and Jupiter, rotating around the sun.

What made me stand out among the best teachers in the world? My road to attaining this international recognition was a very long 23 years of improving and harnessing my craft.

I consistently studied and learned new skills to improve my method of teaching. I wanted my methods to be interesting, relevant and fun for students. For as in any product, the measure of teaching success is clientele satisfaction.

I acquired a degree in biology from the

I DREAMT/ A8

BIYO: Power of the human spirit

ROBOKIDS: Coach Gilbert Zamora with (from left) Paolo Aquino, Eyo Peña and Kyle Mina having fun with their Lego robots.

RUDY ESPERAS

3 Pinoy kids have fun with robots, win a medal

By Volt Contreras

FROM three frolicsome boys comes yet more proof that Filipinos are not far behind when it comes to high-tech wizardry.

A trio of Grade 6 students from La Salle Greenhills pulled off a surprise by bagging the bronze medal in a recent international robotics contest. They also won many hearts for keeping their mirth while their foreign opponents lost their cool in the heat of competition.

Rhinebert Kyle Mina, Paolo Adriel Aquino and Emmanuel Johann Peña III were only beaten by two Chinese teams in one of the events during the 5th International Robot Olympiad held in Daejon, South Korea.

The meet for elementary and high school students ran from Nov. 6 to 9 and saw competitors from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Russia and South Korea.

Dispelling the notion that robotics is an intimidating science for Filipino students, Kyle, Paolo and Eyo excelled in the line tracing event, a contest that rated how fast and accurate a wheeled machine—assembled and programmed on the spot—could complete an obstacle course.

The object was for the color-sensitive robot to follow a black line and negotiate the turns, twists and loops on a flat course about the size of a ping-pong table.

Each team was given a standard Lego robotics kit of spare parts, motors, wheels and sensors. The contest set limits on a robot's size, but practically allowed any design and program. The con-

3 PINOY/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/11/30/03

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

GMA hell-bent on national ID

By Juliet Javellana and TJ Burgonio

FILIPINOS have accepted willingly several identification card systems, why should the proposed national ID system be any different?

President Macapagal-Arroyo is bent on pushing for a single national ID system for all citizens despite legal obstacles and objections from human rights groups.

Ms Macapagal noted that various ID systems were already being widely used, including the Social Security System ID, driver's license, organization cards like the Rotary Club, and ID cards issued by private corporations and credit card companies.

"Our people have accepted all these instruments of political and economic facilitation and I don't see how a national ID system can be portrayed as an oppressive instrument," the President said during a speech before the Luzon Island Conference of the Provincial Board Members League.

"We are simply trying to consolidate what has been done for decades in a single verifiable and fool-proof instrument to deter criminals and terrorists and deprive them of sanctuary among our law-abiding citizens," she said.

She vowed to pursue this program "for a safer and more progressive nation."

The President will not even wait for Congress to legislate the system. She urged the provincial board members, who are the legislators in their respective provinces, to pass local ordinances for local ID systems.

She said some local government units had already put this system in place in their constituencies.

"You can have a provincial resolution that will provide for a provincial ID. Let's show these criminals that the law never sleeps and they can't escape from it," she said.

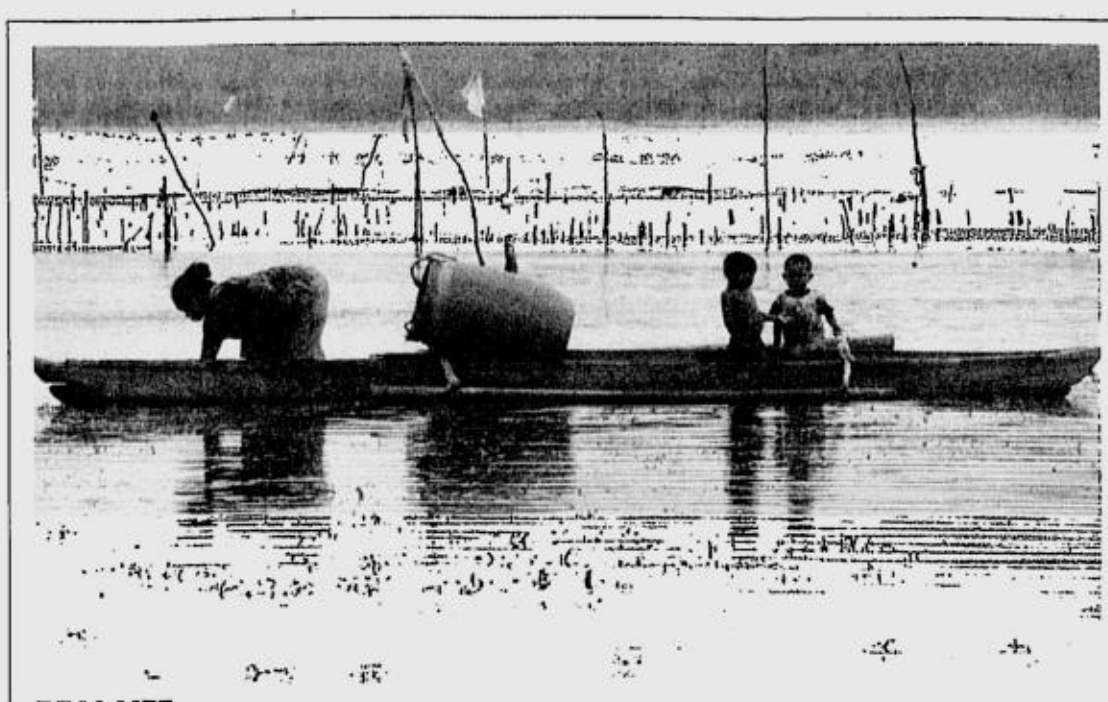
The President revived the long-pending proposal for a national ID as a "reform measure" necessary to combat criminality and terrorism.

Her anti-kidnapping czar, Angelo Reyes, said he would lobby Congress to pass a bill setting up a national ID system.

"We believe that such a system will deter crimes and facilitate a lot of other things," said Reyes, chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force.

Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said a national ID system would facilitate the transaction of business.

"As Filipinos, we should think positively. When we transact business in any office, we need an ID. You can't rely on *cedulas* (residence certificate). You can buy 100 *cedulas*. We need an ID that can identify you differently from other Filipino citizens," Ebdane said.



REAL LIFE
Terrorism, abductions, the falling peso—all these take a backseat to a mother's concern of catching enough fish to feed her two children and perhaps sell at the market in Barangay Bangas, Marungas Island, near Jolo, Sulu. EDWIN BACASMAS

2 presidential candidates present platforms

Roco: Agenda of HOPE

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

FORMER senator and now presidential contender Raul Roco yesterday presented through his fingers his platform of government to the annual gathering of captains of business and industry.

Raising both hands with two middle fingers folded down to form the letter H, Roco explained that he is running for president in next year's elections on the "Agenda of HOPE."

HOPE, Roco told the businessmen, stands for "Honest government; Opportunity for all and special privileges for none; Peace, productivity and prosperity; and Education and environment for sustainable development." His anthem: The Filipino is good.

Addressing the 29th Philippine Business Conference held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel, Roco stressed that the next president of the republic should be prepared, sincere and genuine.

A former corporate lawyer with a master's degree in comparative law, Roco, 62, has served as a congressman, a senator and education secretary. He was named one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines in 1964 and was a delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention. He ran for president in the 1998 elections.

Roco's "Agenda of HOPE" tackles education, health, the economy, local governance, the rule of law, the environment, foreign affairs and values.

Calling businessmen "stewards," Roco urged his audience to participate in poverty alleviation and economic growth. "We will never eradicate poverty if we do not share."

The role of the government, Roco said, was to empower and remove obstacles in order for business to thrive. Citing Enron's case, Roco said corporate governance must also be transparent and business must make "profit with honor."

The salient points of Roco's "Agenda of Hope" include:

- Increase the tax effort ratio to 20 percent of gross domestic product.
- Provide access to credit and capital formation for self employment.
- Upgrade capacity of local governments to provide agriculture support services.
- Upgrade farmer access to technology, venture capital and liberalized credit.
- Major improvements in infrastructure, interisland transport, water and sanitation and power.
- Organize a Presidential Commission for the Management of Global Migration.

Ping: Justice, law, order

By Michael Lim Ubac

PROJECTING himself as the solution to the alarming rash of kidnappings, robberies and worsening lawlessness in the country, opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday vowed, if elected president, to eliminate organized crimes and restore "justice, law and order" in the first 180 days of his presidency.

"We will target 180 days to dismantle, neutralize and bring these criminals to justice," Lacson told an annual gathering of businessmen." Without justice, law and order the most brilliant economic plans will get us nowhere," he added.

Lacson said that in 90 days, his administration, particularly the law enforcement agencies, would undertake significant and massive reforms to "transform themselves into efficient, corrupt-free and professional organizations worthy of the respect of the public. Rogue cops will be dismissed and charged before the courts of justice."

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Lacson disclosed his vision of government and political platform—restore justice, law and order; stop corruption through leadership by example; increase national wealth; upgrade education; institute investor-friendly and predictable economic policies; strengthen the judicial system; and a national health policy to make quality health affordable.

In his speech at the 29th Philippine Business Conference at the Manila Hotel, the former top cop also promised to reinvent the presidency.

"We will use the power of the presidency to deliver, with a sense of urgency, measurable reforms that have always been promised but never delivered," said Lacson, eliciting applause from over 1,000 top businessmen attending the confab.

Short of promising an era of peace and tranquility, Lacson vowed to "save the country" by harnessing the entire bureaucracy in a massive campaign to uproot drug lords and their syndicates, kidnap-for-ransom groups and other organized crimes.

To deter crimes, Lacson pledged to lift the moratorium on the enforcement of the death penalty for those convicted of heinous crimes such as kidnapping and drug trafficking.

When asked during an open forum by a Chinese businessman if Lacson would execute a death convict during Day One of his presidency, he replied, "Not Day One... but Week One," to the delight of the enthusiastic crowd.

He said the anti-crime drive should be "noticeable in 180 days so that you can tell your children once again, "If it's late at night and you are in trouble, look for a policeman for help."

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Gloria warns speculators

By Juliet Javellana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday warned speculators against putting pressure on the Philippine peso, stressing that the government had the tools to defend the unit.

"I must warn speculators not to test the government's policy determination," the President said during a speech before the Luzon Island Conference of the Provincial Board Members League.

She gave marching orders to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to reign in the peso which fell to a record low of 55.85 to the dollar on Thursday. The local currency recovered slightly to about 55.73 to the dollar in late trading on Friday.

"The Bangko Sentral has the tools to maintain the stability of the exchange rate and we are confident in the BSP's capacity to use these tools willfully and competently as in the past," Ms Macapagal said.

"In the meantime, it would help if people can shake off the election fever and get on with more productive endeavors," she said.

She urged all sectors of society to "team up behind political and economic stability and make a strong collective pitch on law and order and development."

The peso fell to record lows after Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho announced his resignation two weeks ago and after movie action king Fernando Poe Jr. announced on Wednesday that he would run for president in next May's presidential election.

Poe, who is closely identified with ousted President Joseph Estrada, is a high school dropout with no government experience. His popularity with the masses has raised fears in the business community that he might become the country's next leader. *With a report from AFP*

Lacson willing to talk turkey

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday reiterated that he was willing to meet with Fernando Poe Jr. on Dec. 3 to iron out their differences.

"The other night, our leaders agreed to allow the two of us to first settle the [issue of the opposition's standard-bearer] by ourselves," Lacson said in a press conference yesterday at the Manila Hotel. He said he was quite open to the idea, but "there's no word yet from FPJ."

Lacson's handlers told the INQUIRER that the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino faction led by Senators Edgardo Angara and Vicente Sotto III, who are both backing Poe, were amenable to the proposed meeting between the two presidential contenders.

"Game *na game na akong makipag-usap* (I'm more than willing to talk with him)," said Lacson. "I want this issue resolved. To me, it is important that the opposition have one [presidential] candidate."

But Lacson, an LDP member, stressed that he would never agree to be Poe's running mate.

"I've replied to that question over and over again," he said. "I'm not sliding down to the vice presidential position."

Lacson said that should the LDP select Poe, "I'd rather go back as a senator to finish my term up to 2007, and that's it."

But Lacson stressed that Poe and company at the LDP should abide by the decision of the united opposition should he be chosen standard-bearer.

"They better agree," the senator said. "That is the essence of democracy. When the majority rules, the minority follows."

Lacson refused to put meaning to Poe's absence at yesterday's forum of presidential aspirants sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Let's give him the benefit of the doubt," he said, adding that Poe probably lacked time to prepare for the forum. *Michael Lim Ubac*

HK training RP graft-busters

By Armand N. Nocum

LOCAL graft-fighters are learning from the masters themselves—not the kung fu masters—but the revered anti-graft busters who rid Hong Kong of corruption in the 1970s.

A member of the Philippines' Lifestyle Check Coalition has revealed that the government has started sending prosecutors and graft investigators to Hong Kong to train with its Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC).

Among those who recently returned to the country after six weeks of training with the ICAC was Assistant Secretary Nick Conti, head of the Transparency Group under the office of presidential chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao.

"We are going to send even more people—from the Transparency Group, the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit—to get training from those who have already proven their skills in fighting graft," said Teresita Baltazar of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and a ranking member of the Lifestyle Check Coalition.

"The fight against graft could really take off with these initiatives in place," she said.

The ICAC successfully fought graft in Hong Kong by having undercover agents work in the offices of suspect officials and having them mingle with the officials' associates in order to learn about their illegal activities.

The agency was able to uncover scores of graft cases this way and arrest a number of big-time grafters under then ICAC operations head Tony Kwok Man-wai, who has since retired.

In a recent interview, Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo said the government intends to tap the services of Kwok in training local graft investigators.

Marcelo has asked Malacañang to create an investigators bureau under his office. He said the bureau—which initially would have 65 graft-busters—will be patterned after the ICAC.

"They (Hong Kong) were very successful because they have a core of 800 field investigators," he said.

So far, the Philippine government's lifestyle check has resulted in the filing of graft charges against two ranking officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways, three officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and four from the Bureau of Customs.

In a press statement Friday, Marcelo said that when he assumed office last year, the Ombudsman's conviction rate was a low six percent. He attributed this to the "severe lack of prosecutors and field investigators."

In the statement, Marcelo said he has 32 full-time investigators handling some 2,500 cases before the Sandiganbayan.

'HEY, JUST DOING MY JOB!'
Two unidentified members of the Presidential Security Group (left and 4th from left) single out INQUIRER photographer Val Handumon from a group of lensmen snapping pictures of President Macapagal-Arroyo in Lucena City recently. Moments later, the PSG agent at left pushed Handumon hard in the back. Manila Standard photographer Ey Acasio, who took this photo, was himself elbowed earlier by a Major Toribio of the PSG. Lensmen covering the President have long been complaining of harsh treatment by the PSG.

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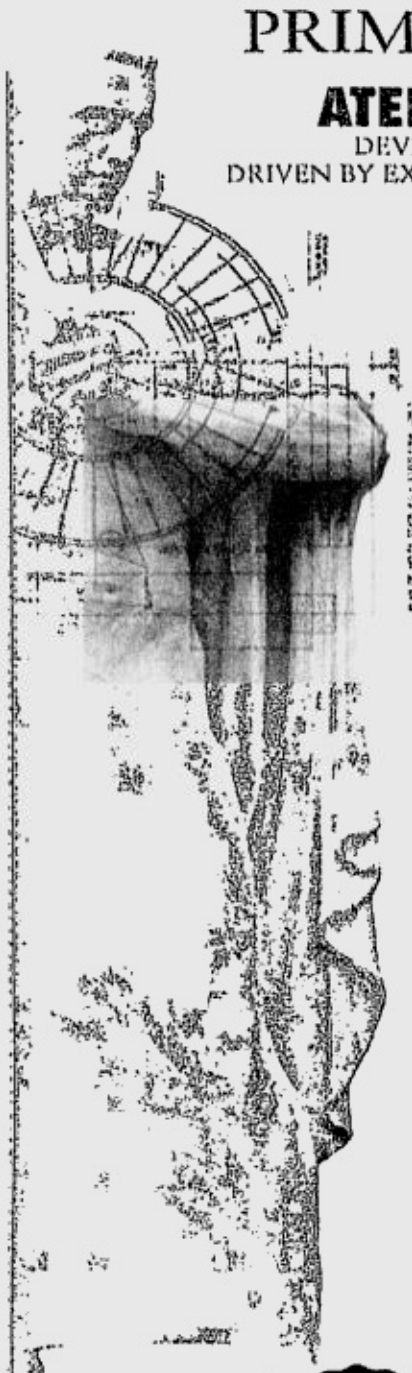

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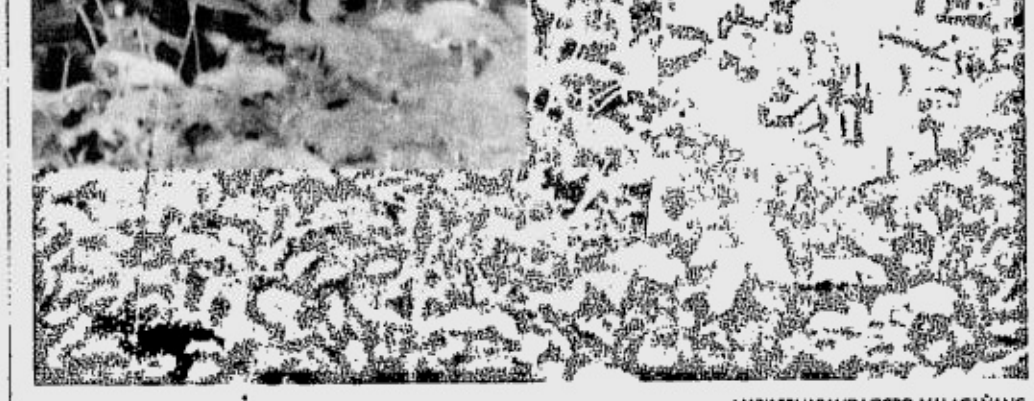

MARK PENARANDA/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

TREE PLANTING
President Macapagal Arroyo receives a miniature macopa tree from children of officials of Plantation Hills, Tagaytay Highlands. The President led a tree-planting ceremony at the Tagaytay golf club. Looking on is Tagaytay City Mayor Francis Tolentino.

Christmas goes . . .

From page A1

at $13 billion annually—but medication and gadgets come in second at $7.6 billion.

Taubman Centers, which surveyed 6,000 pet owners, found that 90 percent of them plan to purchase their pet a Christmas gift this year.

Nine out of 10 Americans said they would spend up to $50 on pet gifts, while the other 10 percent said they would spend more.

And pet product manufacturers are offering a range of objects ever more sophisticated and surprising for the family pet.

Well-heeled pet owners may opt for the Gucci goat hair dog bed for $2,050.

Political toys are bound to be in demand this year as the United States heads into the November 2004 elections.

For $13 the dog-owning Democrat can let his canine sink his fangs into a rubber chew toy in the shape of President George W. Bush, 14 centimeters high, that squeals horribly when squeezed or bitten.

Republicans can buy the equivalent of Senator and former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. An Osama bin Laden chew toy is also available.

Another curiosity comes from Japan—a dog collar equipped with software that translates barks into human language on a handheld computer—all for $100.

Other marketers are appealing to simple-living, health-conscious consumers.

With stress costing society $300 billion a year, Bruce Van Horn of the website PetGuru.com has published a series of books, priced at $10 to $15 each, about letting pets benefit from the quest for inner peace.

He says he himself places his hands on his dalmatian Goodboy and his cat Sarafina during his yoga session, so that they can reap the benefits of his meditation practice. *AFP*

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4. Deadline for dropping of raffle stubs shall be 30 minutes before the actual draw.
5. These raffle stubs will then be drawn at the following time in the presence of a DTI representative.

1st 12:30 pm	4th 3:30 pm	7th 6:30 pm
2nd 1:30 pm	5th 4:30 pm	8th 7:30 pm
3rd 2:30 pm	6th 5:30 pm	9th 8:30 pm

6. Winner will be asked to go onstage and spin the Yes It's Cash Roleta wherein he/she will have a chance to win P500 to as much as P5,000.00. An extra bonus of P500.00 will be given to the winner if he/she will be able to sing-a-long with the featured song for the hour from the Yes Let's Sing 2 collection. Winner will be awarded the cash prize instantly on stage.
7. A winner can only win once during the duration of the promo.
8. Non-winning entries in the previous draw/s will still be qualified to join in the succeeding draws.
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a. P500	d. P2,000.00
b. P1,000.00	e. P3,000.00
c. P1,500.00	f. P5,000.00

10. A DTI representative will be invited to witness the drawing of winners and the spinning of the roleta.

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WIDE AWAKE: Conjoined Filipino twins Carl and Clarence Aguirre. PDI FILE PHOTO

Negros twins, still joined. . .

From page A1

The hospital had said previously that the third procedure would take place in January. The twins underwent their first major operation on Oct. 20.

The twins were born in Silay City in Negros Occidental. Their mother, Arlene, had to quit her job as a nurse to take care of them after they were born. Her mother, an accountant, also had to quit her job to help Arlene with the twins.

Through the Philippine Airlines Foundation, the twins were flown to New York City. The operation, being performed by a team of 30 surgeons and other doctors, was made possible by several sponsors through the US-based non-profit organization Children's Chance.

In a 5 1/2-hour operation on Monday, surgeons cut and divided some of the major blood vessels shared by the boys and gently pushed apart their brains, which were abutting but not intertwined, said Dr. James Goodrich, another of the boys' lead surgeons.

Surgeons also repeated one procedure from the first operation—inserting a pouch called a tissue expander beneath the scalp of one of the boys. The two expanders that were implanted in October had to be removed when infections developed.

The expanders, which are to be inflated with a saline solution over several weeks, are designed to help the twins grow enough skin to cover their heads when they are separated.

Earlier this week, Goodrich said the overall effort to separate the twins was now at least 50 percent complete and that complete separation could be accomplished in the third or possibly fourth operation.

The team decided on a gradual approach rather than a single marathon operation to separate the twins in an effort to reduce blood loss and help the boys adapt to each stage of the surgery. Goodrich said two or three operations to reconstruct the boys' skulls could follow the separation. *AP*

Look to New Zealand as trade partner, envoy tells Pinoys

By Dennis C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—There is room for Philippine exports in "Middle Earth."

New Zealand, more popularly known today as the country where the movie trilogy "Lord of the Rings" was filmed, has a steadily growing consumer market which Filipino exporters should consider exploring.

"I keep on emphasizing that the New Zealand market is open. Give us a product with a good price and quality and we will certainly buy it," New Zealand Ambassador to the Philippines Terry Baker told the INQUIRER here on Thursday.

He said that despite the increased opportunity to penetrate his country's markets, Filipino businessmen, like other exporters, preferred to trade with Asia, the US and Europe because "we are seen as a small and remote (market)."

Before it became popular because of "Lord of the Rings," New Zealand was known as a country with millions of sheep and cattle that outnumbered its human inhabitants.

But Baker said the New Zealand consumer market has been growing steadily.

"We have a wealthy consumer market, so there is a potential for the Philippines to sell more there," Baker said.

And unlike the United States and the European Union, New Zealand imposes fewer trade barriers.

Baker said that with the recent collapse of the WTO talks in Cancun, Mexico, New Zealand sees more opportunity to trade with developing countries like the Philippines.

"It's in New Zealand's interest to work with developing countries," Baker said.

Gov't sets aside P370M for info on crime gangs

THE GOVERNMENT has allotted P370 million in reward money for information that would lead to the arrest of illegal-drug and kidnap-for-ransom syndicates.

"We are determined to stamp out the operations of these criminal syndicates and each of us must join and support the government's war against them," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a brief message during the birthday celebration of former Bulacan Rep. Ricardo Silverio in San Rafael, Bulacan, yesterday afternoon.

Ms Macapagal said the reward system hopes to encourage citizens to participate in stopping kidnapping incidents and the illegal drug trade.

Silverio's supporters, most of whom wore shirts saying "We Love You GMA," welcomed the President at the former congressman's residence.

On Monday, Ms Macapagal will launch "The Nation's Outrage Against Drugs: Saving This Generation (Himagsik)" anti-illegal drugs program at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila. She will be joined by representatives from the youth, sports and religious sectors as well as civil society. There will be simultaneous launching ceremonies at the City Park in Davao City, Fuente Osmeña in Cebu and Burnham Park in Baguio City at 4:30 p.m.

The Himagsik launch will be graced by boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, billiards legend Efren "Bata" Reyes, Philippine Basketball Association cagers and other sports personalities who will exhort the youth to junk drugs in favor of sports.

Singers and other show biz personalities have also been invited to join the President at the launch.

Under the long-term goals of Himagsik, law enforcement agencies will sign a manifesto of commitment with the different sectors to come up with alternative projects for the youth in sports, the arts, environment and other volunteer work to steer them away from drug use. *With a report from Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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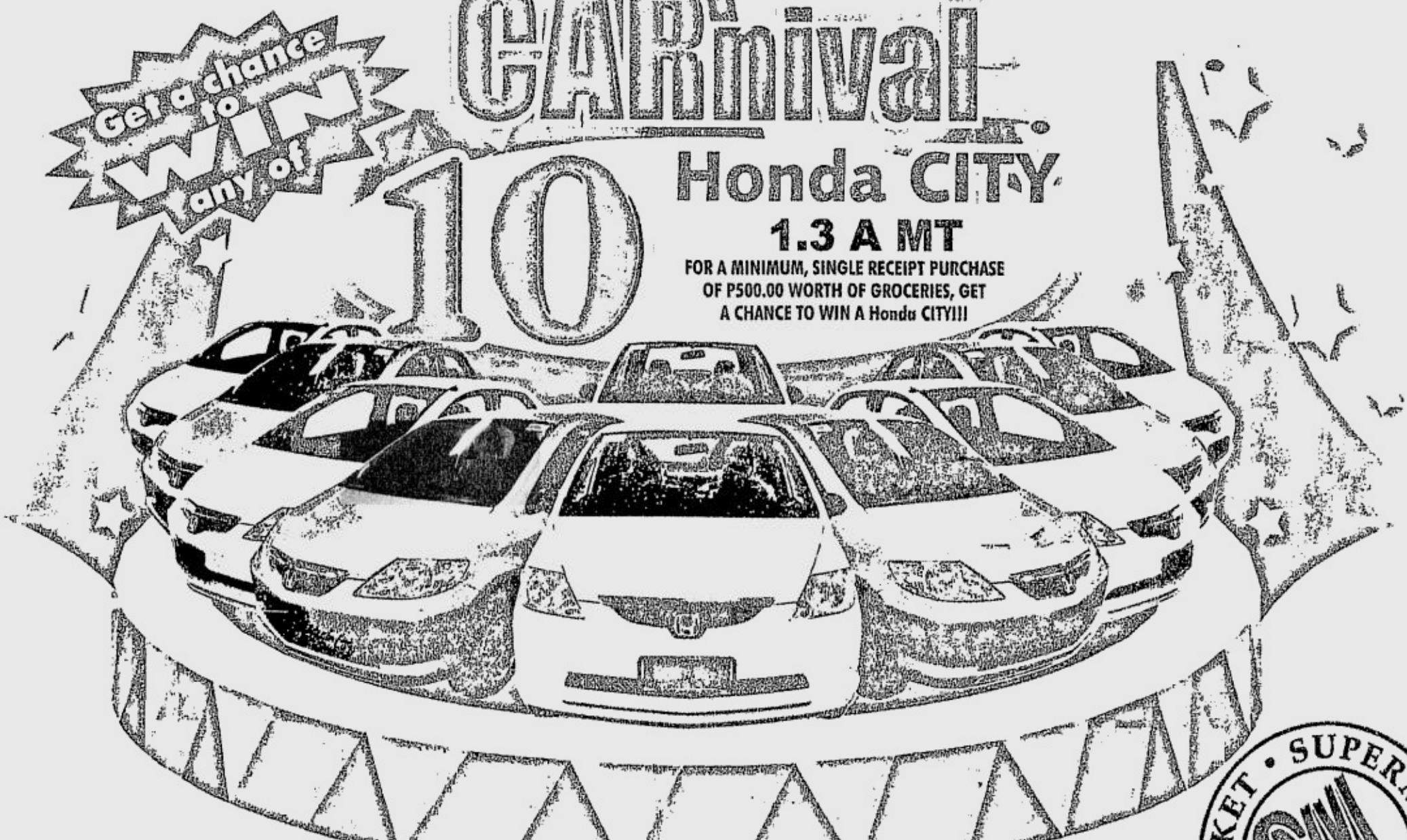

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Gloria is our bet, say NPC lawmakers

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEVERAL congressmen belonging to the Nationalist People's Coalition headed by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco have declared their support for President Macapagal-Arroyo in next year's presidential election.

Sources from the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats said the representatives' decision was reached yesterday in a meeting of some NPC congressmen and the party's regional coalition partner, the United Negros Alliance (UNA) in Talisay, Negros Occidental. Mayors, vice mayors and councilmen of the province's cities and towns attended the meeting.

Despite FPJ

This despite movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.'s announcement on Wednesday that he is running for the presidency. Cojuangco is perceived to be backing Poe's candidacy.

The congressmen at yesterday's gathering were identified as Juan Pablo (Rimpy) Bondoc of Pampanga, Eduardo Veloso of Leyte, Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar, Alipio Badelles of Lanao del Norte, Roseller Barinaga of Zamboanga del Norte, Jesnar Falcon of Surigao del Sur, Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur, Tomas Dumpit of La Union, Alfredo Maranon of Negros Occidental, Gener Tulagan of Central Pangasinan, Conrado Estrella III of Eastern Pangasinan, Amado Espino of Western Pangasinan and Gerry Espina of Biliran.

Earlier, several Liberal Party stalwarts also pledged their support for Ms Macapagal in 2004.

They were Western Samar Representatives Antonio Nachura and Reynaldo Uy, LP vice president for the Visayas; Manila Rep. Rodolfo Bacani, secretary general; Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, executive vice president; Housing Secretary Mike Defensor, vice president for Metro Manila; Quirino Rep. Junie Cua, Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas and Antique Ifugao Rep. Solomon Chungalao.

Reaffirmation

At Saturday's meeting, Rep. Alfredo Maranon Jr., head of the NPC contingent in the House, reaffirmed the party's continued coalition with the ruling Lakas.

According to Lakas officials, the LP leaders' pledge, given ahead of the party's caucus and the oath-taking of Senate President Franklin Drilon as LP chair, would boost Ms Macapagal's chances of winning.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said victory has been heralded by the recent Pulse Asia survey which showed the President's popularity steadily rising.

Pichay and Rep. Monico Puentevella of Bacolod City said the survey gave Ms Macapagal the highest rating with the Class E sector with 32 to 42 percent, followed by Poe with 32 to 39 percent.

They did not say when the survey was conducted.

"This (rating) is expected to soar as her pro-poor programs yield long-term positive effects," Pichay said.

'Abusing environment is stealing'

By Volt Contreras

NEWLY installed Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales has started showing his "green" side.

Rosales yesterday gave a divine boost to earthy concerns by lending his influence to a civil society initiative to save the environment.

"Under the new Catholic catechism, abuse of the environment is considered a violation of the 7th Commandment: 'Thou shalt not steal,'" said Rosales during the launching of the Lasallian Institute for the Environment or LIFE, at La Salle Greenhills in Mandaluyong City.

"When you waste our limited natural resources, you are actually stealing from the next generation, from your own children and grandchildren," the 71-year-old prelate said.

Rosales, who succeeded Jaime Cardinal Sin as Manila archbishop on Nov. 21, said he was merely resuming his ecological campaign which marked his earlier diocesan work in the provinces.

As Archbishop of Malabaybalay, Bukidnon, Rosales was among the community leaders who led protests against illegal logging in the province. After three years of lobbying the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the province was declared a log-ban area in 1990.

But this success came at a bloody price. A parish priest, Fr. Nery Satur, was murdered in October 1991, and Rosales said it was because Satur earned the ire of illegal loggers.

Rosales would later immortalize the slain priest in the book "Father Nery Satur and the Church He Died For."

"Everything in nature has a number—even the air that is still breathable, the rainfall that has not yet turned into acid. What I mean is that we will run out of these if we don't know how to care of them," Rosales said.

LIFE executive director Bienvenido Eusebio said he was not surprised that Rosales was going all-out for his group, whose initial project is to come up with a scientific assessment of the environmental degradation of the areas surrounding Laguna de Bay and the Pasig River.

"In words and in deed, he (Rosales) has been risking his life and that of his priests for the environment," Eusebio said.

Although formally launched only yesterday, LIFE has been active the past three months teaching villagers around Laguna Lake how to identify and evaluate ecological hotspots.

Calling all the Alumni of the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters and Philosophy and Letters

In observance of its Ruby Anniversary on February 7, 2004, the Faculty of Arts and Letters led by Dean Belen Lorezca Tangco, in coordination with the UST Faculty of Arts and Letters Alumni Foundation and the Philets Alumni Foundation, is inviting all graduates of the Faculty of Arts and Letters, Liberal Arts and Philosophy and Letters to a **Homecoming and Fellowship** on **December 13, 2003** at the **Thomas Aquinas Research Center** starting 6:00 o'clock in the evening.

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Military won't can 'boots' ad just yet

By TJ Burgonio

DON'T "infomercials" get boring after airing for months? They do, but the military doesn't mind.

Pro-military information commercials on television—including one of a boy marveling at his soldier-father's new combat boots and more food on the table owing to a bigger pay check—continue to run on government-owned stations like RPN-9 four months after the failed July 27 mutiny.

Top military officials said this is because they have to get "morale issues" through to the ground troops to avoid another coup attempt.

"There's nothing wrong with (the) redundancy," said Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya in an interview with the INQUIRER. "The message is that the government is taking care of the soldiers, and the AFP is not as bad as the Magdalo group has pictured it to be." He was referring to the 300 disgruntled officers and men who seized the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati City.

The infomercials have several versions that harp on the same theme—just rewards for loyal soldiers and the futility of joining coups. The campaign was launched in August to counter the mutineers' grievances about corruption, low pay and lack of housing, among other gripes.

Officials said the information drive was intended for an "internal audience," and clarified that it was a project of Conrado Limcaoco, presidential adviser on media and ecclesiastical affairs, not the AFP.

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2 pilots bail out

TWO AIR Force pilots bailed out of an OV-10 aircraft at around noon yesterday leaving the attack plane to crash in the outskirts of Nasugbu, Batangas. No one was reported hurt on the ground.

Capt. Froilan L. Paras and his co-pilot, 1Lt. Peter Paul Lim, parachuted to safety and were picked up by troops of the Air Force 740th Combat Group based in Nasugbu, said Maj. Restituto Padilla, Air Force spokesperson.

Paras complained of leg pains but Lim was "up and about." They were taken to the V. Luna Medical Center in Quezon City for more tests, Padilla said.

The two had come from Puerto Princesa, Palawan and were on their way to the Danilo Atienza air field in Sangley, Cavite for the aircraft's "regular maintenance."

The OV-10's right engine malfunctioned and the left engine, while working, "caused the plane to lose precious altitude," Padilla said. *TJ Burgonio*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, November 30, 2003
1st Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Jer 33:14-16

The days are coming when I shall fulfill the promise that I made in favor of Israel and Judah.

In those days and at that time I will cause to sprout the shoot of righteousness from David's line; he will practice justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will experience salvation and Jerusalem will live in safety. He will be called "Yahweh-Our-Righteousness."

2nd Reading: 1 Thes 3:12-4:2

May the Lord increase more and more your love for each other and for all people, as he increases our love for you. May he strengthen you internally to be holy and blameless before God, our Father, on the day that Jesus, our Lord, will come with all his saints.

For the rest, brothers, we ask you in the name of Jesus, the Lord, and we urge you to live in a way that pleases God, just as you have learned from us. This you do, but try to do still more. You know the instructions we gave you on behalf of the Lord Jesus:

Gospel: Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said, "Then there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish of perplexed nations when they hear the roaring of the sea and its waves. People will faint with fear at the mere thought of what is to come upon the world, for the forces of the universe will be shaken. And at this time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

"Now, when you see the first events, stand erect and lift up your heads, for your deliverance is drawing near."

"Be on your guard; let not your hearts be weighed down with a life of pleasure, drunkenness and worldly cares, lest that day catch you suddenly as a trap. For it will come upon all the inhabitants of the whole earth. But watch at all times and pray, that you may be able to escape all that is bound to happen and to stand before the son of Man."

Commentary

Advent is a time of preparation, a time of expectation, a time to renew once again our hope. Amidst pain and sufferings, from crisis to crisis, we have reason to hope and to long for because our Lord Jesus is coming, has already come and will come again. This Christian hope triumphs over human tragedies and natural and cosmic calamities. As followers of Jesus, we need to know how to interpret the events of history as signs of God's liberation. Precisely the final end anticipates the judgment of man when he has to make a choice, a decision whether for life or for death, between God or mammon, between good and evil. "Come, Lord Jesus, come!" refers not only to the birth of Jesus but also to the second coming of Christ in glory at the end of the world. We are therefore asked to stay awake, to be prepared and to be vigilant. As we continue our journey in life, we are reminded again and again in this season of advent that we have a companion, a friend whose loving memory gives us hope to face bravely the madness of this world and that we have a final destination. We are constantly moving forward towards the end time of God's Kingdom which is already here but not yet fully realized. Jesus is our companion who journeys with us and accompanies us to the Promise Land.

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Log poachers turn into agri entrepreneurs

By Volt Contreras

A CENTRAL Luzon community that once relied on illegal logging to stave off hunger is now a thriving livelihood organization that boasts some P2 million in assets, including stretches of reforested land, fish ponds, and vegetable farms.

The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources cites the success story of five barangays in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija, which are now benefiting from a 1998 DENR initiative that turned timber poachers into agri-entrepreneurs.

In a report sent to the DENR main office in Quezon City, the General Tinio Community-based Forest Management Organization said that of the 160 hectares awarded to its members five years ago, about 50 are now growing narra, mahogany and gmelina trees.

The rest of the land is now planted to cash crops like upland rice, corn, *ampalaya*, peanuts, papaya, citrus and mango.

P100,000

The first harvest of *ampalaya* under the project, for example, netted up to P100,000 for one of the five smaller federations making up the GT-CBFMO. The organization has also ventured into fish production, goat raising, carabao dispersal and organic fertilizer manufacturing.

The group's 500 members represent around 200 families from Barangays Pias, Nazareth, Saudi, Concepcion and Rio Chico.

The members have come a long way since their days of plying the dangerous, illegal trade of hauling "hot timber" to be sold for P1 to P30 per board foot to major lumber outlets in the town proper and in nearby Cabanatuan City.

During the lean months when work in the rain-irrigated rice fields had been completed, the menfolk would form groups of five and disappear for a few weeks into the forest carrying bolos or chainsaws.

With canned sardines and dried fish in their backpacks—food provisions that they bought with cash borrowed from loan sharks—the poachers would endure fatigue, insect bites, and fungal infections running up to their waist for cut timber.

But that's only half of the harrowing job, because carrying and hauling their contraband on rafts down the murky Rio Chico and Sumacbao rivers posed another back-breaker, said the report prepared by the DENR Region III office.

The men would return home gaunt, unshaven, and their skin dotted with oozing wounds. Their pitiful state often led to tearful reunions with their wives and children, the report added.

In 1995, the five barangays saw violent confrontations between the poachers' families and government personnel—including the Army and DENR forest guards—to protect their forest loot from confiscation.

Alternatives

But livelihood alternatives opened up for General Tinio's desperate populace when the DENR introduced the CBFM program in 1998 with the help of Outreach Philippines International, a nongovernment organization tapped by the agency to implement the project.

The former poachers were trained not only in actual technical skills but also in making project proposals and feasibility studies to be pitched before potential investors.

Organized and with newfound confidence, the once-timid, cynical residents were able to link up with resource institutions and government units for their needs.

But the foundation of their success was the security of tenure they got over parcels of forest land awarded under the program. Under the CBFM, beneficiaries are given exclusive rights to till the land they occupy for 25 years under an agreement renewable for another 25.

The General Tinio federation was given seed capital of P255,000. Since then, its assets has grown by P1.7 million, with more projects in livestock production in the works, the DENR reported.

3 Pinoy kids have fun with robots, win a medal

From page A1

testants were given an hour-and-a-half to create their robots.

Third best time

Under time pressure, Kyle served as the laptop-lugging programmer, inputting instructions for their robot to follow once set into motion on the course.

Paolo and Eyo worked on the robot's physical and mechanical design.

A team is disqualified once a robot veers from the black line or stops moving for more than five seconds—a fate that easily befell the losing teams.

The Philippine entry completed the course during the first of the two attempts allowed, and clocked the third best time.

Not a bad performance considering that the "Kame-Archers" team—as the boys registered themselves during the contest—only got introduced to robotics last July as members of La Salle's Robotics Club.

("Kame," the INQUIRER was later told, was taken from "Kamehame Wave," the ultimate weapon of an animé warrior character.)

Grace under pressure

The INQUIRER met the boys last Wednesday in Makati City during a potluck victory party thrown by their families.

Based on their account and that of their parents and coach, the boys brought to the competition the Filipino's knack for showing grace under pressure.

"While the other kids looked serious and tense, the boys still managed to tease each other and share [jokes] as the deadline approached," said Gilbert Zamora, their coach and club adviser.

Asked what he thought was their advantage over their competitors, Kyle said: "If you get too serious, you will lose."

"We poked fun at them (opponents), but in Tagalog, of course," a grinning Paolo said.

The mild-mannered Eyo recalled with amusement that he even spotted some contestants crying when their robots collapsed or moved clumsily.

Right attitude

Zamora said the three boys—who belong to the cream section—were chosen not necessarily because of their good grades in Science or Math, but because they displayed the "right attitude."

"We needed someone who could work with a team, who could handle pressure, who could move fast and had good decision-making skills. You cannot measure that merely through grades," Zamora said.

This is where robotics as a learning and character-building tool in classrooms can be most potent, he said.

"At the level of school children, robotics develops critical thinking, logic and problem-solving skills, which were displayed by our boys," he said.

Zamora said the team owed their training to the Lego robotic kits which cost about P30,000 each. The team was sponsored by the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology and the kits' local distributor, Felta Multimedia Inc.

ROBOTIC KIDS with their Lego robot kits. RUDY ESPERAS

Thinner wheels

Asked whether he consciously applied his Science lessons during the contest, Paolo cringed.

But according to one parent, Paolo used what he learned in Science to justify the group's decision to use large, thin wheels like those in a *kalesa* (horse-drawn carriage) for their robot, while most of their competitors used smaller, thicker mag wheels.

Thinner wheels create less friction with the surface when making turns, and this makes for more accurate turns, Paolo explained.

Kyle, who dreams of building a "gardener robot," said the team made a crucial decision to change the robot's design just five minutes before deadline because they believed that the program they had been been practicing on for months was more complicated that what was needed for the obstacle course.

It was this knack for snappy improvisation, Zamora said, that apparently distinguished the boys from their more technically advanced rivals.

'I dreamt of stars; I got a planet'

From page A1

University of the Philippines in the Visayas, hoping to be a medical doctor. But for lack of financial resources, I took the first job opportunity available—teaching.

Never did I regret this twist of fate. The day I entered the classroom, I knew I would be an excellent teacher.

Rural school

My first eight years of teaching were spent in a rural school.

For lack of teachers in proportion to the number of students, I taught not only biology but also other subjects outside my field such as English, music and physical education. The materials, equipment and facilities for the type of effective teaching I had in mind were absent.

These challenges, however, did not dampen my enthusiasm. In fact, I became more creative and innovative.

I believe that teaching and learning should not be confined within the classroom. Even during those first years of teaching, I saw to it that the science concepts I discussed in class would have social dimensions.

Thus, I took an active role in school as moderator of the rural health and science education committee. I designed outreach programs for students and teachers.

Through these programs, students were trained to teach primary health care to the people in the barangays. They also taught barrio folks how to make cough syrup from plant extracts and soap from coconut oil, and gave lectures on environmental protection and conservation.

Greater challenges

Those eight years prepared me for greater challenges ahead. Working with the children of the poor instilled in me the importance of service, compassion and respect for human dignity. I have learned to love teaching, and I see it as an instrument for transforming the person and the community.

But after eight years of teaching, I felt I had nothing more to give my students. I resigned and enrolled as a full-time student in MS Biology at the De La Salle University in Manila. I was lucky to get a scholarship that included free tuition and a monthly stipend.

To augment my stipend, I worked as a part-time lecturer in the biology department and as a research assistant for a senior researcher in the university. This I did on top of my full-time student's load.

But I was so engrossed in my studies that I finished my master's degree in one year and five months only, after which the DLSU took me in as a full-time assistant professor.

Teaching college students at the DLSU was an entirely new experience. With modern and sophisticated equipment at my disposal, my world opened to the wonders of scientific research.

However, I still valued the importance of nature as a big laboratory, so that in my ecology classes, I would bring my students to the seas of Batangas, the rivers of Rizal, and the lahar-affected areas of Pampanga to conduct field studies.

Pursuing my doctorate while teaching also enabled me to conduct researches that were presented here and abroad.

Research is very exciting. It means sleepless nights, disappointments, physical and mental exhaustion. But the joy of discovering something new in nature makes it all worthwhile.

Iloilo

While Manila provided me opportunities for professional growth, my heart was still in Iloilo. Thus, with an additional degree and an additional son, I brought my family back to Iloilo in the summer of 1995.

In June of that year, the Philippine Science High School Western Visayas hired me as a special science teacher—then only in its third year of existence, the school welcomed my suggestions and expertise. I helped develop its science research curriculum and introduced innovations for teaching the course.

After barely a year at the PSHS, I realized that my role was not only to teach students but to train teachers as well. This I did by organizing workshops for teachers in the region.

One day, I received a letter from the students. They said that they knew I was being groomed for directorship of the school, but that they wanted me, not as the the director, but as a teacher.

"The PSHS needs teachers like you. The Philippines needs teachers like you," they said.

Their letter touched me deeply.

'Song in our hearts'

When I won the Metrobank Foundation Award in 1997 as one of the country's outstanding teachers, the PSHS community gave me a poster—a white *cartolina* filled with signatures of the students, teachers and non-teaching staff.

At the center was a painting of a rose, and a message: "You are the song that plays so softly in our hearts; that gives us inspiration to aim for greater heights and bigger dreams. Congratulations. We are so proud of you."

In 1998, I was chosen one of The Outstanding Young Filipinos (formerly known as the TOYM) in the field of secondary education.

Last year, I won the 2002 Intel Excellence in Teaching Award in an international competition held on May 10-17 at Louisville, Kentucky.

I presented to the panel of judges and about 150 teachers from all over the world my method of teaching science research to my students in Iloilo.

I told them that the Philippines is a Third World country blessed with abundant natural resources, but that we face problems such as the rapidly declining environment and the lack of equipment and facilities for scientific endeavors.

I said that faced with this situation, I introduced innovations and strategies for teaching the course.

These innovations, I said, included building a scientific library, conducting field studies, establishing linkages with research institutions in the country, holding science forums in school, and teaching students laboratory and field techniques that would help them in their research work.

The judges and teachers were amazed that even without sophisticated equipment, my students were able to produce quality research outputs beyond their expectations.

Glorious moment

I went to Kentucky with three students from the Manila Science High School, and a student from the Mindanao State University—Iligan Institute of Technology.

They competed with 1,200 other students in the International Science and Engineering Fair, which was held back-to-back with the teaching competition. The three from Manila Science competed for a team project in physics, and the one from Iligan competed for the individual category in microbiology.

May 17, 2002, was a glorious moment for the Philippine delegation. When it was announced that the student from Iligan won second place in the grand award for microbiology, we were ecstatic. When it was announced that the students from Manila Science won first place in the grand award for physics, we were delirious.

When the grand award for Excellence in Teaching was announced, and for the first time in the history of the event an Asian teacher—a Filipino—won, there was a standing ovation from the crowd as the Philippine flag was waved in the air.

But the Philippine delegation's road to success in Kentucky was far from smooth.

We almost never made it to the United States. We were able to get our visas at the last minute, and in the most unconventional way.

Sitting alone

Let me tell you the scenario during the first day of the teaching competition.

The table in front was occupied by the board of judges. The table at the right side was occupied by the finalist from China and her supporters. The table at the left side was occupied by the American finalists and their supporters.

The center table for the Filipino finalist was empty. I sat there alone.

I brought a CD for my presentation, as well as some transparencies and a white-board pen in case my CD wouldn't work. Coming from a Third World country, I was prepared for the worst.

It turned out that I was the only finalist without a notebook computer. An American finalist lent me his; but before doing so, he briefed me on its parts and its use.

I was the fourth presenter. When it was my turn, a panel member asked if I needed an interpreter. I said: "No, thanks."

Someone from Intel volunteered to run my presentation. I said: "I can do it."

Afterward, they said: "Wow, you're so cool. You know more than us!"

Filipinos can

What am I telling you? That despite our country's limited resources, Filipinos can compete globally given the proper training, support and exposure.

Our winning in the international scene may not reflect the general condition of science education in the country, but with our concerted efforts, we can move this country forward and show the world that we are a globally competitive race.

Last May, I was in Cleveland, Ohio, to present my methods of teaching to 150 teachers from 17 countries. I also served as team facilitator for the Spanish-speaking teachers from Brazil, Costa Rica and Argentina.

Last August, I gave a demonstration lesson to educators from the Third World countries of Laos and Cambodia.

Filipinos are indeed talented and will excel at the international level in their individual capacity. But as a country, we lag behind. This is because we lack the spirit of community that is very strong among progressive nations.

When I went home to Iloilo after the US competition, my school gave me a very warm welcome. During the convocation, students and teachers expressed how proud they were of me.

I told them: "I am very proud of you, too. It is you who have brought me to where I am now. Our experiences together has brought world attention to the fact that hey, there's a world-class school out there in Iloilo, a school with world-class teachers and students.

I told the teachers—and I quote INQUIRER columnist Conrad de Quiros—"Being world-class doesn't mean going internationally and showing our best out there. Being world-class is passion and commitment to our profession. Being world-class is giving our best to teaching. Being world-class starts right inside the classroom."

In winning this international award, I do not claim to be the best teacher of the land. There are thousands of best teachers out there, working silently, giving their hearts to teaching, without thinking of benefits or rewards. I salute them.

In winning this award, I believe I was just commissioned by Somebody up there to deliver the message that Filipino teachers can be world-class teachers. In winning this award, I have shown the world that Filipinos can be world-class if they choose to be.

And more importantly, I have shown my fellow Filipinos that they can be world-class if they choose to be. That if we do our best, we can conquer the world.

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Job as mission

When your job becomes your mission, your primary concern is giving your best in everything you do. Knowing that you have contributed significantly toward the creation of a product that can make a difference in the community is reward in itself.

Believe in what you are doing. Believe that you can make a difference.

Believing, however, doesn't mean you have to stop where you are now. Believing is improving your skills and maximizing your potential. With determination and the will to win, you can conquer the world.

Log poachers turn into agri entrepreneurs

By Volt Contreras

A CENTRAL Luzon community that once relied on illegal logging to stave off hunger is now a thriving livelihood organization that boasts some P2 million in assets, including stretches of reforested land, fish ponds, and vegetable farms.

The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources cites the success story of five barangays in General Tinio, Nueva Ecija, which are now benefiting from a 1998 DENR initiative that turned timber poachers into agri-entrepreneurs.

In a report sent to the DENR main office in Quezon City, the General Tinio Community-based Forest Management Organization said that of the 160 hectares awarded to its members five years ago, about 50 are now growing narra, mahogany and gmelina trees.

The rest of the land is now planted to cash crops like upland rice, corn, *ampalaya*, peanuts, papaya, citrus and mango.

P100,000

The first harvest of *ampalaya* under the project, for example, netted up to P100,000 for one of the five smaller federations making up the GT-CBFMO. The organization has also ventured into fish production, goat raising, carabao dispersal and organic fertilizer manufacturing.

The group's 500 members represent around 200 families from Barangays Pias, Nazareth, Saudi, Concepcion and Rio Chico.

The members have come a long way since their days of plying the dangerous, illegal trade of hauling "hot timber" to be sold for P1 to P30 per board foot to major lumber outlets in the town proper and in nearby Cabanatuan City.

During the lean months when work in the rain-irrigated rice fields had been completed, the menfolk would form groups of five and disappear for a few weeks into the forest carrying bolos or chainsaws.

With canned sardines and dried fish in their backpacks—food provisions that they bought with cash borrowed from loan sharks—the poachers would endure fatigue, insect bites, and fungal infections running up to their waist for cut timber.

But that's only half of the harrowing job, because carrying and hauling their contraband on rafts down the murky Rio Chico and Sumacbao rivers posed another back-breaker, said the report prepared by the DENR Region III office.

The men would return home gaunt, unshaven, and their skin dotted with oozing wounds. Their pitiful state often led to tearful reunions with their wives and children, the report added.

In 1995, the five barangays saw violent confrontations between the poachers' families and government personnel—including the Army and DENR forest guards—to protect their forest loot from confiscation.

Alternatives

But livelihood alternatives opened up for General Tinio's desperate populace when the DENR introduced the CBFM program in 1998 with the help of Outreach Philippines International, a nongovernment organization tapped by the agency to implement the project.

The former poachers were trained not only in actual technical skills but also in making project proposals and feasibility studies to be pitched before potential investors.

Organized and with newfound confidence, the once-timid, cynical residents were able to link up with resource institutions and government units for their needs.

But the foundation of their success was the security of tenure they got over parcels of forest land awarded under the program. Under the CBFM, beneficiaries are given exclusive rights to till the land they occupy for 25 years under an agreement renewable for another 25.

The General Tinio federation was given seed capital of P255,000. Since then, its assets has grown by P1.7 million, with more projects in livestock production in the works, the DENR reported.

3 Pinoy kids have fun with robots, win a medal

From page A1

testants were given an hour-and-a-half to create their robots.

Third best time

Under time pressure, Kyle served as the laptop-lugging programmer, inputting instructions for their robot to follow once set into motion on the course.

Paolo and Eyo worked on the robot's physical and mechanical design.

A team is disqualified once a robot veers from the black line or stops moving for more than five seconds—a fate that easily befell the losing teams.

The Philippine entry completed the course during the first of the two attempts allowed, and clocked the third best time.

Not a bad performance considering that the "Kame-Archers" team—as the boys registered themselves during the contest—only got introduced to robotics last July as members of La Salle's Robotics Club.

("Kame," the INQUIRER was later told, was taken from "Kamehame Wave," the ultimate weapon of an animé warrior character.)

Grace under pressure

The INQUIRER met the boys last Wednesday in Makati City during a potluck victory party thrown by their families.

Based on their account and that of their parents and coach, the boys brought to the competition the Filipino's knack for showing grace under pressure.

"While the other kids looked serious and tense, the boys still managed to tease each other and share [jokes] as the deadline approached," said Gilbert Zamora, their coach and club adviser.

Asked what he thought was their advantage over their competitors, Kyle said: "If you get too serious, you will lose."

"We poked fun at them (opponents), but in Tagalog, of course," a grinning Paolo said.

The mild-mannered Eyo recalled with amusement that he even spotted some contestants crying when their robots collapsed or moved clumsily.

Right attitude

Zamora said the three boys—who belong to the cream section—were chosen not necessarily because of their good grades in Science or Math, but because they displayed the "right attitude."

"We needed someone who could work with a team, who could handle pressure, who could move fast and had good decision-making skills. You cannot measure that merely through grades," Zamora said.

This is where robotics as a learning and character-building tool in classrooms can be most potent, he said.

"At the level of school children, robotics develops critical thinking, logic and problem-solving skills, which were displayed by our boys," he said.

Zamora said the team owed their training to the Lego robotic kits which cost about P30,000 each. The team was sponsored by the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology and the kits' local distributor, Felta Multimedia Inc.

ROBOTIC KIDS with their Lego robot kits. RUDY ESPERAS

Thinner wheels

Asked whether he consciously applied his Science lessons during the contest, Paolo cringed.

But according to one parent, Paolo used what he learned in Science to justify the group's decision to use large, thin wheels like those in a *kalesa* (horse-drawn carriage) for their robot, while most of their competitors used smaller, thicker mag wheels.

Thinner wheels create less friction with the surface when making turns, and this makes for more accurate turns, Paolo explained.

Kyle, who dreams of building a "gardener robot," said the team made a crucial decision to change the robot's design just five minutes before deadline because they believed that the program they had been been practicing on for months was more complicated that what was needed for the obstacle course.

It was this knack for snappy improvisation, Zamora said, that apparently distinguished the boys from their more technically advanced rivals.

'I dreamt of stars; I got a planet'

From page A1

University of the Philippines in the Visayas, hoping to be a medical doctor. But for lack of financial resources, I took the first job opportunity available—teaching.

Never did I regret this twist of fate. The day I entered the classroom, I knew I would be an excellent teacher.

Rural school

My first eight years of teaching were spent in a rural school.

For lack of teachers in proportion to the number of students, I taught not only biology but also other subjects outside my field such as English, music and physical education. The materials, equipment and facilities for the type of effective teaching I had in mind were absent.

These challenges, however, did not dampen my enthusiasm. In fact, I became more creative and innovative.

I believe that teaching and learning should not be confined within the classroom. Even during those first years of teaching, I saw to it that the science concepts I discussed in class would have social dimensions.

Thus, I took an active role in school as moderator of the rural health and science education committee. I designed outreach programs for students and teachers.

Through these programs, students were trained to teach primary health care to the people in the barangays. They also taught barrio folks how to make cough syrup from plant extracts and soap from coconut oil, and gave lectures on environmental protection and conservation.

Greater challenges

Those eight years prepared me for greater challenges ahead. Working with the children of the poor instilled in me the importance of service, compassion and respect for human dignity. I have learned to love teaching, and I see it as an instrument for transforming the person and the community.

But after eight years of teaching, I felt I had nothing more to give my students. I resigned and enrolled as a full-time student in MS Biology at the De La Salle University in Manila. I was lucky to get a scholarship that included free tuition and a monthly stipend.

To augment my stipend, I worked as a part-time lecturer in the biology department and as a research assistant for a senior researcher in the university. This I did on top of my full-time student's load.

But I was so engrossed in my studies that I finished my master's degree in one year and five months only, after which the DLSU took me in as a full-time assistant professor.

Teaching college students at the DLSU was an entirely new experience. With modern and sophisticated equipment at my disposal, my world opened to the wonders of scientific research.

However, I still valued the importance of nature as a big laboratory, so that in my ecology classes, I would bring my students to the seas of Batangas, the rivers of Rizal, and the lahar-affected areas of Pampanga to conduct field studies.

Pursuing my doctorate while teaching also enabled me to conduct researches that were presented here and abroad.

Research is very exciting. It means sleepless nights, disappointments, physical and mental exhaustion. But the joy of discovering something new in nature makes it all worthwhile.

Iloilo

While Manila provided me opportunities for professional growth, my heart was still in Iloilo. Thus, with an additional degree and an additional son, I brought my family back to Iloilo in the summer of 1995.

In June of that year, the Philippine Science High School Western Visayas [illegible] as a special science [illegible] only in its third year of [illegible], the school welcomed my suggestions and expertise. I helped develop its science research curriculum and introduced innovations for teaching the course.

After barely a year at the PSHS, I realized that my role was not only to teach students but to train teachers as well. This I did by organizing workshops for teachers in the region.

One day, I received a letter from the students. They said that they knew I was being groomed for directorship of the school, but that they wanted me, not as the the director, but as a teacher.

"The PSHS needs teachers like you. The Philippines needs teachers like you," they said.

Their letter touched me deeply.

'Song in our hearts'

When I won the Metrobank Foundation Award in 1997 as one of the country's outstanding teachers, the PSHS community gave me a poster—a white *cartolina* filled with signatures of the students, teachers and non-teaching staff.

At the center was a painting of a rose, and a message: "You are the song that plays so softly in our hearts; that gives us inspiration to aim for greater heights and bigger dreams. Congratulations. We are so proud of you."

In 1998, I was chosen one of The Outstanding Young Filipinos (formerly known as the TOYM) in the field of secondary education.

Last year, I won the 2002 Intel Excellence in Teaching Award in an international competition held on May 10-17 at Louisville, Kentucky.

I presented to the panel of judges and about 150 teachers from all over the world my method of teaching science research to my students in Iloilo.

I told them that the Philippines is a Third World country blessed with abundant natural resources, but that we face problems such as the rapidly declining environment and the lack of equipment and facilities for scientific endeavors.

I said that faced with this situation, I introduced innovations and strategies for teaching the course.

These innovations, I said, included building a scientific library, conducting field studies, establishing linkages with research institutions in the country, holding science forums in school, and teaching students laboratory and field techniques that would help them in their research work.

The judges and teachers were amazed that even without sophisticated equipment, my students were able to produce quality research outputs beyond their expectations.

Glorious moment

I went to Kentucky with three students from the Manila Science High School, and a student from the Mindanao State University—Iligan Institute of Technology.

They competed with 1,200 other students in the International Science and Engineering Fair, which was held back-to-back with the teaching competition. The three from Manila Science competed for a team project in physics, and the one from Iligan competed for the individual category in microbiology.

May 17, 2002, was a glorious moment for the Philippine delegation. When it was announced that the student from Iligan won second place in the grand award for microbiology, we were ecstatic. When it was announced that the students from Manila Science won first place in the grand award for physics, we were delirious.

When the grand award for Excellence in Teaching was announced, and for the first time in the history of the event an Asian teacher—a Filipino—won, there was a standing ovation from the crowd as the Philippine flag was waved in the air.

But the Philippine delegation's road to success in Kentucky was far from smooth.

We almost never made it to the United States. We were able to get our visas at the last minute, and in the most unconventional way.

Sitting alone

Let me tell you the scenario during the first day of the teaching competition.

The table in front was occupied by the board of judges. The table at the right side was occupied by the finalist from China and her supporters. The table at the left side was occupied by the American finalists and their supporters.

The center table for the Filipino finalist was empty. I sat there alone.

I brought a CD for my presentation, as well as some transparencies and a white-board pen in case my CD wouldn't work. Coming from a Third World country, I was prepared for the worst.

It turned out that I was the only finalist without a notebook computer. An American finalist lent me his; but before doing so, he briefed me on its parts and its use.

I was the fourth presenter. When it was my turn, a panel member asked if I needed an interpreter. I said: "No, thanks."

Someone from Intel volunteered to run my presentation. I said: "I can do it."

Afterward, they said: "Wow, you're so cool. You know more than us!"

Filipinos can

What am I telling you? That despite our country's limited resources, Filipinos can compete globally given the proper training, support and exposure.

Our winning in the international scene may not reflect the general condition of science education in the country, but with our concerted efforts, we can move this country forward and show the world that we are a globally competitive race.

Last May, I was in Cleveland, Ohio, to present my methods of teaching to 150 teachers from 17 countries. I also served as team facilitator for the Spanish-speaking teachers from Brazil, Costa Rica and Argentina.

Last August, I gave a demonstration lesson to educators from the Third World countries of Laos and Cambodia.

Filipinos are indeed talented and will excel at the international level in their individual capacity. But as a country, we lag behind. This is because we lack the spirit of community that is very strong among progressive nations.

When I went home to Iloilo after the US competition, my school gave me a very warm welcome. During the convocation, students and teachers expressed how proud they were of me.

I told them: "I am very proud of you, too. It is you who have brought me to where I am now. Our experiences together has brought world attention to the fact that hey, there's a world-class school out there in Iloilo, a school with world-class teachers and students.

I told the teachers—and I quote INQUIRER columnist Conrad de Quiros—"Being world-class doesn't mean going internationally and showing our best out there. Being world-class is passion and commitment to our profession. Being world-class is giving our best to teaching. Being world-class starts right inside the classroom."

In winning this international award, I do not claim to be the best teacher of the land. There are thousands of best teachers out there, working silently, giving their hearts to teaching, without thinking of benefits or rewards. I salute them.

In winning this award, I believe I was just commissioned by Somebody up there to deliver the message that Filipino teachers can be world-class teachers. In winning this award, I have shown the world that Filipinos can be world-class if they choose to be.

And more importantly, I have shown my fellow Filipinos that they can be world-class if they choose to be. That if we do our best, we can conquer the world.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Baghdad trip no political stunt–Rice

CRAWFORD, Texas—President George W. Bush's national security adviser on Friday defended his lightning trip to Baghdad, denying it was a political stunt that inadvertently highlighted the chaos still blighting Iraq.

"Obviously, Iraq is still a dangerous place, and that's no secret to anyone," Condoleezza Rice told ABC television just hours after returning with Bush from the surprise Thanksgiving holiday visit.

But charges that the secrecy and security blanketing his two-and-a-half stop at Baghdad airport showed that Iraq has made little progress toward stability since the US-led March invasion are "just not true," she said.

"The Iraqis are taking control of their own future. Most of the country remains quite stable. The Iraqis are planning and looking forward to the transfer of sovereignty. They're taking over ministries, schools are opening, all of those things are happening," she said.

Some critics, including the presidential campaign of retired general Wesley Clark, said the brevity and cloak-and-dagger nature of the visit—which the White House sold as a morale-booster—actually showed how little Washington has accomplished in Iraq since taking control in April.

"The trip highlights how insecure Iraq is and shows how we need to get our allies in to get the American face off the occupation," Clark spokesperson Jamal Simmons said.

"Hopefully, President Bush realized, when he looked into the faces of those soldiers, that he owes them a success strategy in Iraq so that we can get back to the business of fighting the war on terrorism," said Simmons.

Concerns over rising insurgent violence led the White House to impose a vow of silence on media accompanying the president, lifting it only once he was safely away from the Iraqi capital after a stay confined to the airport.

Bush's Air Force One airplane made a special landing designed to limit its exposure to surface-to-air missiles, arriving with its running lights turned off and all shades drawn to prevent light from seeping out and giving away its position.

"Presidential trips require extraordinary security under any circumstances. Under this circumstance, it required even more extraordinary security, but the president wanted to send a message," said Rice.

She also acknowledged that the missile attack earlier this month on a German DHL cargo plane had almost caused the White House to scrap Bush's visit, which was planned for weeks starting in mid-October.

"The DHL incident made people go back and take a look at whether we thought the plane would be safe going in. They determined that it was defended and that it could be done," she said.

Rice also denied that the White House—which is famed for its attention to political detail—made the trip to bolster Bush's chances to win a second term in November 2004. *AFP*

A Pledge for a SMOKE-FREE EDSA

People more than vehicles travel through EDSA.
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EDSA is the avenue that connects people, cities, commerce and living. It is the main avenue that connects history and the nation.

We, as a people, are connected through EDSA. That is why we envision it to be the avenue for the future - a clean and clear future. An avenue that we use everyday, and which someday will belong to our children and grandchildren. This avenue of the future is not *polluted*; it is not *stagnant*. It is *a haven* for people who would live healthy active lives in a healthy and productive nation. It is a SMOKE-FREE EDSA.

We, the undersigned, pledge to work towards this goal.

To maintain a SMOKE-FREE EDSA *we have to undertake the necessary action to reduce the Total Suspended Particles (TSP) concentration in EDSA by 20 percent from this day onwards until the end of 2003 and even beyond.*

Collectively, we pledge to:

- Inform and educate more people on the hazards of pollution through orientation seminars in coordination with DENR;
- Adopt a "clean car policy" for vehicles owned by agencies and officials/employees;
- Conduct emission testing for vehicles owned by agencies and officials/employees;
- Adopt a "car-free day" at least once a month;
- Reproduce, reprint or distribute materials on Smoke-Free EDSA and Clean Air Campaign in cooperation with DENR and other government agencies; and
- Announce reminders on clean air during flag ceremonies.

As a citizen, I pledge to:

- Have my vehicle tuned-up regularly;
- Use clean diesel or motor oil in my vehicle;
- Have regular oil change for my car;
- Avoid leaving my vehicle in idle mode for a long time;
- Clean my vehicle's air filter regularly;
- Avoid over-loading my vehicles;
- Join in or organize car-pooling;
- Report smoke-belchers to the proper authorities;
- Walk or bike during short trips; and
- Stop burning my garbage.

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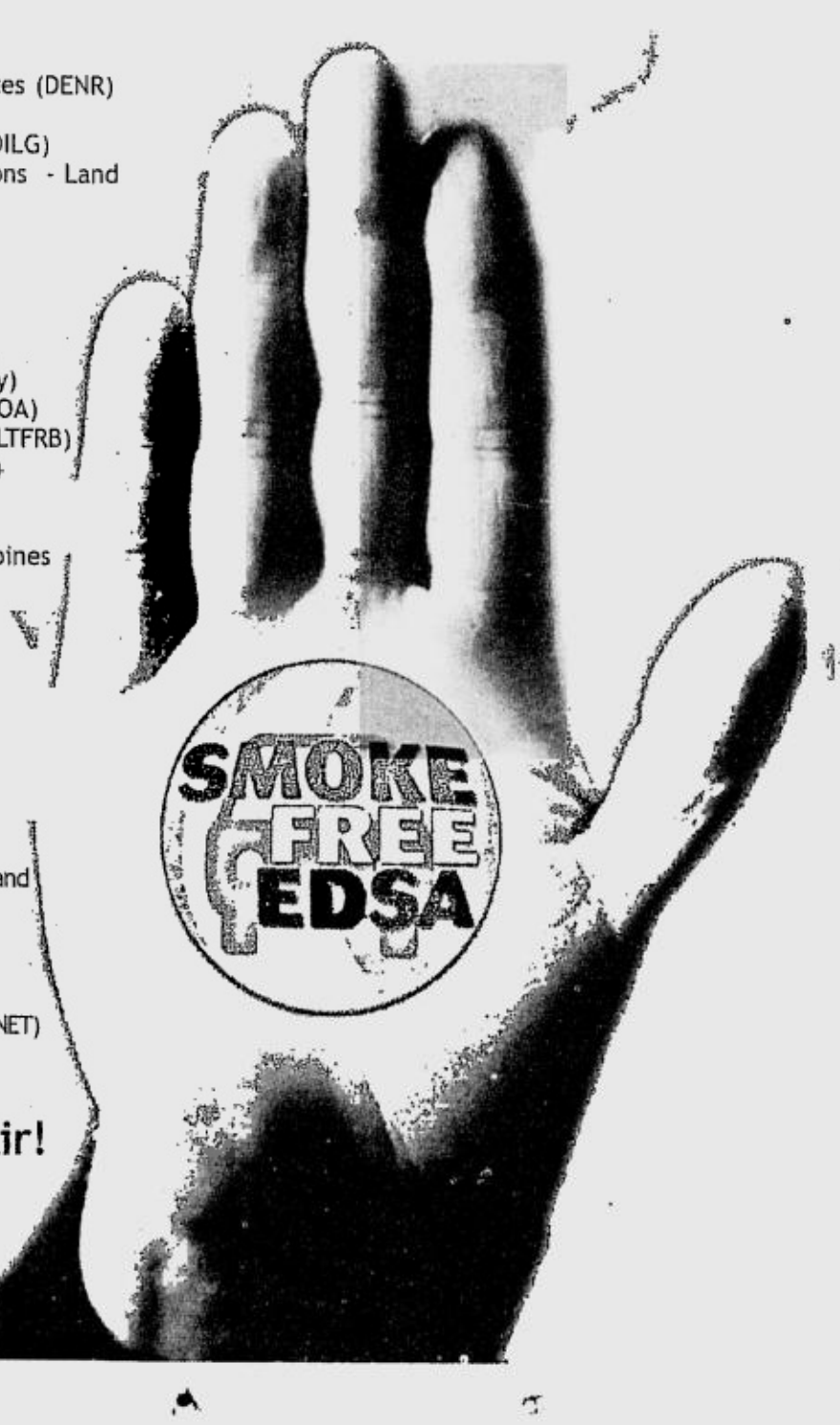

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

French court acquits 3 paparazzi in Diana crash

PARIS—A Paris court on Friday ruled that three press photographers did not breach privacy laws when they took pictures of Princess Diana and her boyfriend Dodi Al Fayed on the night of their fatal car crash six years ago.

The court acquitted Jacques Langevin, Christian Martinez and Fabrice Chassery after deciding that Diana and Dodi knew that they would be photographed as they left the Ritz hotel in the run-up to the accident.

The three had faced a maximum penalty of a year in prison and a fine of 45,000 euros ($53,600) if found guilty under France's strict laws banning invasion of privacy.

"This is an excellent decision, which confirms the principle of the freedom of the press and the right to information," said Martinez's lawyer Valerie Rosano.

The national association representing press photographers ANJRPC-FreeLens also welcomed the ruling.

"It is what we were hoping for. It is totally legitimate because though we have often heard the word paparazzi what they are is photo-journalists. And what they did that night was what they always do in such circumstances: take pictures," it said.

The case came to court as a result of a civil suit filed by Dodi's father, Egyptian-born billionaire Mohamed Al Fayed, who had claimed a symbolic one euro in damages. Al Fayed immediately said he would appeal against the decision.

"Here we have another judge... who seems determined to sweep the whole tragic affair under the carpet, thereby aiding the continued cover-up," he said in a statement.

"The paparazzi played a significant part in the tragedy and they should be punished," according to the statement, written on the letterhead of his Harrods department store. "Accordingly, I have lodged an immediate appeal."

The three accused were among the eight paparazzi and one dispatch rider who followed Diana and Dodi on the night of Aug. 31, 1997, when the pair were killed in a crash in a Paris underpass along with their limousine driver Henri Paul.

PRINCESS DIANA

All were initially investigated on manslaughter and non-assistance charges but cleared before the case came to court.

Last month's hearing was the first time events surrounding the accident had come to trial. The state prosecutor asked for unspecified suspended prison sentences for the three, arguing that to acquit them would encourage press intrusion.

However, in its written ruling the court said that though the pictures had been taken of the interior of the car—which is technically a private space—they had not revealed "any intimate gesture or behaviour" on the part of Princess Diana and Dodi Al Fayed.

The photographs had not "made public a secret liaison as the (relations between the couple) had been the talk of the town throughout the summer," the court ruled. "Nor were they taken secretly, as the couple could not have been unaware that they risked being photographed when they left their hotel." *AFP*

Taiwan president promises to hold security referendum

TAIPEI—Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian Saturday unveiled plans to hold a referendum to "safeguard the country's sovereignty" on election day following the passage of a plebiscite law that has angered rival China.

"To protect the sovereignty of our country from any alien threats and changes, I'm obliged and responsible to put this issue to a referendum with the approval of the cabinet," Chen told a rally in the capital city.

He was referring to a clause in the law on the so-called "defensive referendum," which empowers the president to put to a popular vote "issues of national security concern" in the case of foreign threats.

China, which regard Taiwan as part of Chinese territory awaiting unification after it split from the mainland in 1949 at the end of a civil war, has repeatedly threatened to invade the island should it declare formal independence.

"Don't you worry. On March 20 (presidential election day) next year, we will be able to hold a referendum to safeguard the country's sovereignty and security," Chen said, without further elaboration.

Taiwan's opposition-dominated parliament on Thursday passed a law enshrining for the first time the right to vote on contentious issues including constitutional amendments, independence from China and changes to Taiwan's official name, flag and territory.

But it also set hurdles that would make such changes hard to achieve in practice, which China's state-media has called a "watered-down" law that was a "great defeat" for Chen.

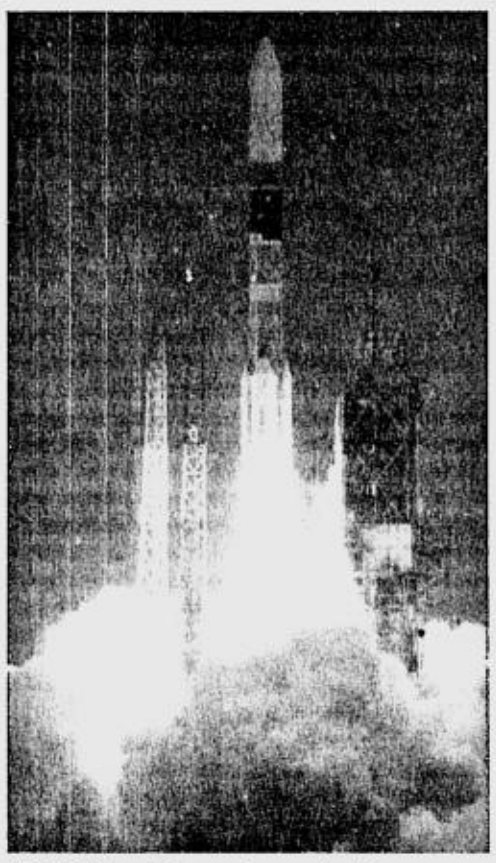
Voted down were key clauses allowing popular votes on a completely new constitution and Taiwan's future—namely reunification with China or independence—that had been put forward by the ruling, pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party.

"We may not be satisfied (with the law), but we have successfully made the concept of referendum acceptable to all the people including those who used to oppose democracy and reforms," Chen added.

On Friday, China said it was "gravely concerned" about the law and warned it would never tolerate independence for the island, but it refrained from again threatening war.

"We are gravely concerned about the situation surrounding Taiwan's referendum law," said an unnamed spokesperson for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office.

"We are paying close attention to the development of the situation." *AFP*



AN H-2A rocket carrying a pair of spy satellites lifts off from the launch pad at Tanegashima Space Center on a tiny southern Japan island, Nov. 29. AP

N. Ireland peace process shaken after hardliners triumph in poll

BELFAST—Northern Ireland's peace process suffered its biggest-ever blow on Friday when a hardline Protestant party opposed to the 1998 peace accord won the most seats in its province's power-sharing assembly.

The success of the Protestant Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) was matched by Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA)—Northern Ireland's main Catholic paramilitary group, which beat out a more moderate Roman Catholic party.

The DUP, which is opposed to the 1998 Good Friday peace accords that ended 30 years of bloodshed and bombings in the British province, has pledged not to deal with Sinn Fein, boding ill for a quick resumption of the power-sharing assembly—suspended since October 2002.

But British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart Bertie Ahern issued a statement immediately following the results insisting that the Good Friday agreement remains the only way forward for the province.

"In our firm view, the Good Friday agreement remains the only viable political framework that is capable of securing the support of both (Protestant and Catholic) communities in Northern Ireland," they said in their joint statement.

The election result dealt a serious blow to the credibility of David Trimble, the leader of the moderate Protestant Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) which won the 1998 elections but could muster only 27 seats this time around.

Sinn Fein beat its more moderate Catholic rivals, the Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP), to capture third place.

Sinn Fein won 24 seats, the SDLP 18—an exact reversal of the parties' showing in 1998 polls.

But it is the success of the DUP, led by the 77-year-old firebrand Ian Paisley, which will cause most worry for the London and Dublin governments—the architects of Good Friday agreement.

After topping the poll with 30 out of 108 seats; the DUP will feel it is in a strong position to demand renegotiation of the peace accords.

DUP leader Paisley campaigned on a promise that he would never resume power sharing with Sinn Fein, third in the poll. Several of Sinn Fein's members used to be combatants in the IRA, which since 1997 has observed a ceasefire in its armed struggle against British rule.

The DUP believes that too many concessions have been made to the Catholic community. The party is also angry because the IRA has yet to fully disarm five years after the Good Friday agreements were concluded.

Northern Ireland's assembly was born out of Good Friday and created unprecedented power sharing between former foes from the two communities.

But it has been suspended since October 2002 when London re-imposed direct rule after a spy ring linked to the IRA was discovered at the heart of the legislature, prompting a breakdown of mutual trust.

Following the election result, Blair and Ahern invited the main political parties to submit their views about reviewing certain aspects of the agreement. *AFP*

Japan blows up rocket carrying spy satellites

TOKYO—Japan blew up a rocket carrying two spy satellites for monitoring secretive neighbor North Korea minutes after launching it on Saturday, echoing failures that dogged its space program in the late 1990s.

North Korea is believed to be developing nuclear weapons, and the satellites, along with two others launched in March, had been promoted as a significant boost to Japanese intelligence gathering.

The failure is an extreme embarrassment for Japan just weeks after neighboring China put a man into space. There was no immediate word on the cost of the launch.

The Japanese-made H2-A rocket was shown blasting off into a cloudy sky to applause from observers at the launch site on the tiny island of Tanegashima, some 1,000 km south of Tokyo, where Japan's launch center is located.

Just minutes later, though, an announcement was made that the rocket would not be able to complete its mission and had been destroyed by the launch controllers.

The sky filled with spirals of greyish smoke.

"We verified ignition of the second stage, but after that we just didn't know," a harried official told reporters at Tanegashima.

According to NHK national broadcaster, one of the booster rockets may not have separated as planned.

"This was a real shock," said an official with the Cabinet Satellite Intelligence Center, which oversees the satellites.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi termed the result "unfortunate" and directed officials to determine what went wrong as soon as possible, Kyodo news agency said.

The launch of the first two satellites earlier this year gave Japan its first independent means of scrutinizing North Korea from space at a time of growing crisis on the Korean peninsula over the reclusive communist state's nuclear ambitions. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

US soldier killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A US soldier was killed Friday in a mortar attack on a base in northern Iraq as hundreds of Iraqis marched through the center of Baghdad to protest against the violence plaguing the country's reconstruction. After US President George W. Bush told his troops during a lightning Thanksgiving visit to Baghdad that the coalition would prevail over insurgents, former US first lady Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton spent the day in the city. In Europe, police also moved against the Iraqi insurgency, arresting three alleged militants suspected of recruiting insurgents for suicide attacks in the country. Iraqi police and US forces closed off Baghdad's main commercial thoroughfare as hundreds marched through the city center to demonstrate against terror amid persistent fears of attack by anti-US insurgents or Islamic militants. *AFP*

EU 'big 3' strike deal

NAPLES, Italy—The European Union's "big three" struck a deal Friday to give the bloc a military planning arm independent of Nato at a summit aimed at thrashing out a deal on the EU's first ever constitution. Amid acrimony over the collapse of the euro zone's Stability and Growth Pact, EU foreign ministers met in Naples to work out the text of the historic constitution barely two weeks before a leaders' summit in Brussels. Ministers from the EU's 15 present and 10 incoming member states failed to make any headway in some of the biggest constitutional headaches—including national voting rights and the future size of the European Commission. Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini characterized the opening day of the two-day meeting, which he was chairing, as "constructive and positive. Britain, France and Germany came up with one breakthrough by agreeing, after months of talks, what French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin described as "the basis for a proposal" on an EU military planning operation. The EU facility would be much less grandiose than originally conceived—at the height of the Iraq war—by Belgium, France, Germany and Luxembourg in what many saw as a pointed rebuff to the United States. *AFP*

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Drama

ON OCCASION, leadership requires a sense of theater. Consider US President George W. Bush's lightning visit to Baghdad late last week. The secrecy of the Thanksgiving Day trip only heightened the dramatic effect: the commander in chief of the world's most powerful military dropping unannounced on combat troops half a world away.

EDITORIAL

If all it takes to run a country is to stage memorable photo opportunities, Fernando Poe Jr., the movie actor and accomplished director who declared his candidacy for president last Thursday, will feel right at home in Malacañang. The president of a country must learn to use the resources at an actor's disposal: the ability to act according to a script, the flexibility to change scripts at a moment's notice, the emotional capacity to empathize with people from all walks of life, the ability to symbolize other people's hopes and dreams.

Poe's supporters have no difficulty seeing him in this light; it is a role he has mastered over the years.

But there must be more to the photo opportunity than mere photography, more to the sound byte than sound and fury.

A public outraged by a leader's deception or lack of performance can eventually turn on him. Bush, by a twist of fate, is also a case in point here. In a display of political choreography even more unforgettable than the two-and-a-half-hour visit to the Baghdad International Airport, Bush landed on the deck of the USS Abraham Lincoln last May 1, wearing a flight suit, to declare the end of "major combat" operations in the invasion of Iraq.

Since his declaration, hundreds of American soldiers have continued to die in Iraq. Inevitably, the daily casualty list took its toll on his approval ratings, bringing them down to their lowest since the terrorist strikes of September 11.

Poe's close friend and fellow actor, deposed President Joseph Estrada, is another example. In his inaugural address, Estrada dramatized public dissatisfaction with cronyism and corruption with his stirring *"Walang kamag-anak, walang kumpare ..."* declaration. His forthright denunciation of a culture of corruption and influence-peddling by family members and friends seized the national imagination. In time, however, the words came back to haunt the head of state who conferred with a "midnight Cabinet" and looked after mistresses with government deals.

The truth is, much of the work of the President is drudgery: visiting with local chamber officials, reviewing the paperwork on yet another tranche of foreign loans, sitting down with know-it-all journalists, traveling to remote locations, presiding over meeting after endless meeting. Much of the work is policy-oriented: which provisions go into a measure that Malacañang will certify as urgent, which products to champion at the next trade talks. Much of the work is cheerlessly political: attending weddings, checking up on senators who are pro-administration only in name, raising money for the next election.

To survive the grind, a man who would be chief executive, or a King who would be President, would need more than simple sincerity, more than common sense.

No laughing matter

WITH ONE of the most successful and eccentric musical recording stars of all time facing a likely trial before a room full of jurors, and possibly the living rooms of millions of television viewers, there may be a tendency to minimize the seriousness of the charges.

But Michael Jackson is accused of molesting a child—the second time he has been charged with such an offense in little over a decade.

FOREIGN COMMENT

It's a serious, horrendous accusation. It is not the fantasy plot of a fictitious made-for-TV movie. It is not a tabloid-engineered, sensationalized "scoop" that offers as much weight as the alien-next-door story.

It has the backdrop of cotton-candy Hollywood, but this is real. If the charges are true, then a 12-year-old child has been terribly traumatized by a trusted adult, which is the case for so many child-abuse victims. If the charges are not true, then Jackson, no matter his quirkiness, numerous surgeries and physical metamorphoses, has been falsely accused of a crime for which recovery is almost impossible.

This is serious. The accused may have been the subject of numerpus jokes, but child molestation is never a laughing matter.

The Post-Standard (Syracuse, New York)

None of the above

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE *BAKYA* crowd is ecstatic over the decision of King Fernando Poe Jr. of the Movies to yield to the urgings of some supposedly responsible leaders that he run for President of the Philippines next year. Among them is no less than Sen. Edgardo Angara, president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, who hopes the no-longer shy actor will be the standard bearer of a united opposition against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Poe is belittled for lack of political experience, never having held public office before even as only barangay councilman. He is also faulted for being a high school undergraduate, compared to his best friend and compadre Erap, who was at least a college drop-out and was successively municipal mayor, senator, and vice president before he became president of the Philippines.

FPJ's defenders say his political inexperience translates to political innocence that will enable him to write on a clean slate without the compulsions and inhibitions of a previous questionable record. It may also ensure against his yielding to temptations, of which there will be many if he is elected, to his as yet unsullied integrity. They further argue that intellectual prowess may itself be dangerous in the hands of an immoral president as proved by the cerebral Ferdinand Marcos who oppressed and plundered the nation for 13 unconscionable years.

As for those who say seven (correction, nine) US presidents never went to college, how would that irrelevant fact affect us in our own native land? And assuming that it should, how about the other 34 American presidents who finished college unlike our own erratic Erap? A college degree does not necessarily guarantee competence and integrity, but I personally would prefer an educated person to an intellectual delinquent as president of the Philippines. I do not believe that the misdeeds of Marcos should disqualify all other college graduates as potential blackguards unworthy of entering Malacañang.

Now that FPJ is in the race and will probably be chosen as the official nominee of the LDP, President Macapagal hopes to neutralize him with another darling of the masses—Sen. Noli de Castro. Kabayan is a formidable vote-getter and topped the last senatorial election as an independent candidate. Although he has done precious little in the Senate since then, he is also ahead in all presidential surveys, which may be why he has not responded to the Lakas appeal that he agree to be the President's running mate. Maybe his bosses at ABS-CBN want him to run for the presidency itself, and he is only meekly waiting for their marching orders.

De Castro's academic credentials are also unknown; maybe he and FPJ share the same IQ. This is not to mock either of them but only to stress that any person seeking to be the president of the Philippines should be able to show that he has adequate mental preparation instead of only the ability to read and write, which may not even be required of the ordinary voter. Make-believe machismo on the movie screen and fluency in reading the TV idiot boards are not sufficient qualifications for the highest office in the land.

It is likely that the *bakya* crowd will again have a big say in the elections next year; perhaps their vote will be decisive as in 1998, when they elected their very own Joseph Estrada over his better qualified rivals. Erap was ousted soon enough but his followers may not have learned from their dangerous folly and may exhibit it again in favor of whoever identifies with their lack of political judgment and common sense.

That person may be Poe or De Castro, or it may be Panfilo Lacson, who has not yielded his fight although he may at the moment be upstaged by the two popular entertainers. He has several criminal offenses hanging over his head, but he has weathered them so far. The fickle Kris Aquino recently endorsed him but later recanted although she may endorse him again—who knows? The embattled GMA has become tiresome with her TV and radio spots, as well as personal appearances even at popular concerts, but she is at least in control of the administration and its resources. Raul Roco is the most acceptable among the candidates but the minuscule Promdi and Reporma cannot help his also small Aksyon Demokratiko much.

And how about Sen. Loren Legarda, who wants to run for vice president under whatever party is willing to accept her? I think this is the height of political opportunism, and I said so in this column several weeks ago. Loren sent me a letter denying my criticism and insisting that she is always guided as a public servant by the national interest and not personal ambition. As her high-falutin' protestations have not changed my mind a bit, being already inured to self-serving political sanctimony, I will simply do what we in the Supreme Court do with matters that do not deserve further action. For the record, her letter is hereby merely NOTED.

And so the political merry-go-round continues while the nation's ills fester unattended.

Ready?

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about two fishermen, Juan and Pedro, sharing a bottle of gin one starry December night. They talked about their dwindling catch, their children, their hopes and their dreams. When the topic turned to country and politics, they had a lot, literally a lot to say and so had one more bottle to share. Finally, Juan looked up at the sky with a sigh and said, "You know, *pare*, when I see the stars, I am reminded of our present stock of politicians." "Why, because they are bright?" asked Pedro. "No *pare*, it is because they are co-corrupt corrupt," replied Juan. (*Kukurap kurap*, i.e. twinkling)

* * *

The Gospel today (Lk. 21, 25-28, 34-36) speaks about signs in the sky before the coming of the Son of Man in a cloud with power and great glory. There will be trials and tribulations when these things begin to happen. Jesus says that we must stand erect and raise our heads because our redemption is at hand. Jesus exhorts us to be vigilant at all times and pray. That is what Advent is all about, a time to prepare our hearts and mend our lives for the coming of Christ.

* * *

As we come toward the end of this year, let us first be filled with thanksgiving. In spite of our troubles and travails, we are still alive. Let us be grateful for what we have and what we still have rather than be depressed over what we do not have or, do not yet have. As a text message put it, if you keep saying THANK YOU for whatever in this life, someday, when the gates of heaven will open for you, you will hear the words "YOU ARE WELCOME."

* * *

Instead of fright and anticipation, the Lord reminds us today to do our best and, to God, leave the rest. Instead of being depressed, we must continue to have hope. Come to think of it, many things we worry about never happen. Anticipation is oftentimes worse than reality.

* * *

A beautiful Christmas moment happened last week when I heard the confession of a married man who decided to let go of a relationship which he really wanted but was against God's law. It was painful for him to let go of his friend, but, he wanted to be at peace with God and with his family once more. This, he said, was a part of his preparation for Christmas. The other part was to build up his breaking home, and to really be of help to other people. I admire his sense of goodness, and his willingness to let be, to let go and to let God. He left my office with a beautiful smile, bearing the face of one who has been forgiven. Is there any area of your life that needs healing? Let be, let go and let God, and you too will be at peace.

* * *

If God called you now, would you be ready? We all know that we will face our Creator someday, and yet we do not prepare for it. We are so busy with other "more important things" in this life like wealth, career, prestige, retirement, right? Wrong! Nothing is more important than living a meaningful life now and for eternity. Advent should make us focus on what is really important in our lives.

* * *

I have met and prayed over many cancer patients, and "patient" is precisely the word to aptly describe them. It takes a lot of patience to live one day at a time, especially those who suffer untold pain day and night. I admire their courage and determination to live on, and to hold on. But cancer too has a redemptive side, for it helps people prepare for the next life. It also helps people to live more meaningful lives now. Cancer makes people live quality lives. They realize what is truly important and essential in life, and this enables them to face even death itself with meaning. As someone beautifully put it, cancer patients aren't dying. They're living and for some, at last.

* * *

When you come to the end of the day, can you smile and say "I've done my best"? The bottom line is that we keep on trying. Let us not lose sight of the time when we will have to make a full accounting of who we are and what we have done. I've said it before, and I say it again: you can get away with it before people sometimes, but not all the time. And definitely, before God, the truth will be as clear as day, so, live an honest and a good life now, so that when that time comes, you will hear Him say: "Welcome, my child!"

* * *

Dec. 8 is the Solemnity of Immaculate Conception. To honor the Blessed Mother, we will launch our book "Inquirer Moments" (a collection of my Sunday column in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Year C), 5 p.m., at the Christ the King Seminary, Quezon City. At 6 p.m., we will have the Eucharistic celebration, and the launching of "A Shrine by the Sea" by Mirant Philippines. After the Mass, we will have "Ave Maria," a concert of classical music and songs headed by Ed de Guia and his generous group of artists and musicians. Admission is free, for Mama Mary! It's also the 83rd birthday of my Mama. See you!!

* * *

A Moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to prepare for your coming by living a good life now. Amen.

The mirror of her soul

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST week, I wrote about the late Brig. Gen. Jose Sembrano, a member of PMA Class 1953, who served as the corps adjutant or "Bow wow," during his final year at the Academy. I mentioned a few of my experiences as a plebe serving the battalion staff at mealtime. For lack of space, I missed a few items which I wanted to include. So before moving on to other topics, here are some of the anecdotes which were left out.

When I reported to the battalion staff table for duty, the first order of the day was to find out the first name, middle name and last name of the four gentlemen seated with me. I was also directed to provide entertainment in the form of some jokes, on demand. With some difficulty, I was able to comply with the first order and to this day, I still remember the names. The baron or first captain, was Angel Garay Kanapi, the adjutant was Jose Vejungco Sembrano, the training officer was Orlando Naboa Villadelgado, and the logistics officer was Tomas Cruz Reyes. Now, don't think my memory is exceptionally good because these days, I tend to forget things easily. Like on the golf course, I sometimes overlook how many strokes I actually made on a hole. But of course, my good friends remind me of my arithmetic.

But going back to my table assignment, when I least expected it, cadet Tom Reyes just before starting his dessert, called for a joke to brighten up an otherwise dreary evening atmosphere. My mind must have been elsewhere, but I managed to come up with something. It turned out to be a complete, unmitigated disaster. Nobody laughed, no one found it funny; in fact, it made them even more irritable and caused me additional glasses of water. I was also made to write down 500 times the following line: "At mealtime, I shall never tell corny jokes again."

I have purposely left out the darker side of our lives at Fort Del Pilar. They are better left untold. They were inflicted on us mostly by the yearlings (second year cadets) and when we became yearlings ourselves, we passed on undiminished the same practices on the new plebes. That answers the question why hazing has been a perennial problem at the Academy. It lasted so long partly because of tradition but also because it was looked upon rightly or wrongly, as integral to the formation of character. The system was untidy and very often vulnerable to abuse.

Today, aside from the entrance of women, there have been substantial changes. Plebe indoctrination is kinder and gentler and hopefully more responsive to the needs of the times. But it is still no fun.

* * *

The resignation of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was a blow to the Macapagal administration. Not only did she lose a highly competent and respected public servant, but his departure highlights the continued stay of GSIS president Winston Garcia. Camacho denies speculation that his resignation was triggered by conflicts with the government over Garcia's retention at the GSIS although he hinted at frustrations in the service. He mentioned that he wanted to spend more time with the family.

This may be true, but it is difficult to erase public perception that we have allowed the departure of one of the more credible members of the administration, while retaining mediocrities, and mouthing platitudes about good governance and a reform agenda.

* * *

Last week, a few of the past commanding generals of the Philippine Air Force, including the current CG, PAF, Lt. Gen. Nestor Santillan, trooped to the Makati Medical Center to visit retired Brig. Gen. Jonas A. Victoria, who has been in and out of the Center lately, battling the Big C. General Victoria, one of the most feared and beloved of past Air Force chiefs, is 90 years old, making him one of the oldest surviving former major service commanders in the country today. Only Commodore Jose Francisco, who served as flag officer in command of the Philippine Navy, is still around at the age of 96. We continue to pray for General Victoria's speedy and full recovery.

* * *

A birthday celebrant last Saturday was the first woman Supreme Court justice of the Philippines, Cecilia Muñoz Palma. She was honored at a luncheon tendered by her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Justice Palma was the first woman bar topnotcher in 1937 with a grade of 92.6 percent. In 1986 she was elected president of the Constitutional Commission to draft a new Charter for the country.

In the preface to Justice Palma's book "The Mirror of My Soul," a compilation of her selected opinions, decisions, speeches and other writings, Paulynn P. Sicam wrote, "*Ingrata*. Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma earned this epithet from Justice Secretary Vicente Abad Santos in 1975 when, as a member of the Supreme Court, she delivered a speech before her peers and members of the Bar pleading for the return of the rule of law. The occasion was Law Day, on the third year of Martial Law, and Justice Palma admonished her audience, 'We shall be judged by history... not by what we want to do and can't, but by what we ought to do and don't...' Only two years in the high tribunal (she was) publicly biting the hand that had fed her and getting a five-minute standing ovation from an audience of lawyers for it."

To explain her actions, Justice Palma said "my oath of office is an oath of loyalty to the Constitution, to justice and the people, and is not an oath of fealty to the appointing power." Were it that other government officials took to heart the same moral conviction in her words.

A few good women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

KNOW a few good women? More specifically, do you know a thousand women—15 of them from the Philippines—who could receive the Nobel Peace Prize in the year 2005?

There's an ongoing global campaign to find, identify, document and nominate 1,000 women for the Prize for their untiring pursuit of peace, and "to profile such courageous women, to throw light on their lives and work by means of films, photos and other documentation."

Conceived by Swiss parliamentarian Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, the campaign, says Rebecca Vermot, who's assisting her mother and coordinating the international organizational effort, is meant to focus attention on the work that faceless and nameless women do for peace.

"Peace work is usually seen as handshakes between world leaders, usually men," says Vermot who was in the country recently. "Peace as seen as treaties, putting an end to armed struggle, even bringing in troops into a country."

But as Vermot-Mangold wrote, explaining how she hit upon the idea, as a member of the Council of Europe, she had been visiting refugee camps in various crisis and war areas for many years and met women "who perform reconstruction and peace work in extremely dangerous surroundings." "They manage the difficult task of obtaining food and medicine for those in need," she added, "They look for missing persons and struggle to acquire better living conditions for refugees. They give schooling to orphans... and bring structure and courage into these children's daily lives. They condemn torture... and they document (these atrocities). They take to the streets... It is women who are victims of war. It is women who weep for the dead, they are the survivors who press for a return to peace. Courageous and resolute, and without regard for personal safety, they demand peace."

* * *

WHAT makes this campaign unique and exciting is that it seeks to find women working for peace even beyond the usual parameters of armed conflict. Peace work in this context covers a broad range of issues, from putting an end to domestic violence to alleviating poverty, from protecting the environment to addressing unjust economic structures, from education to, as Rebecca puts it, touching taboos that impinge on women's rights, including reproductive rights.

Paulynn Paredes Sicam, who is the Philippine coordinator, says the women nominated for the award need not be directly working in the arena of waging peace or negotiating for the end of conflict, or even activism and NGO work. "The women can be playwrights, authors, song writers," she notes.

Organizers hope to find at least one woman in every country, territory or region, and all that has to be done to call their attention to a particular woman is to fill out a form that details the story of the woman's life, her work, its significance, the creative strategies she employed, the sustainability of her work, and, says Rebecca "how much moral courage it took to carry out this work."

Began in March this year, the "1,000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005" hopes to be able to submit to the Norwegian Parliament, which organizes the Peace Prize search, the full documentation on the women by February 2005. The organizers will then select, by lottery, three women who will represent the 1,000 in the Oslo rites, with a separate recognition ceremony for all the women.

"We especially want to find grass-roots women who may not always receive public recognition but do important work in their communities," says Sicam. Though there's a $2 million award that goes with the Nobel Peace Prize, if the 1,000 women are recognized, they would receive just over a thousand dollars each. But women have always known how to make the best of limited resources, right?

* * *

YESTERDAY'S column would not be the last on the story of F and her struggle for justice, it seems.

A friend, a doctor who works in the PGH, e-mailed her reaction to the columns, saying she felt it put the UP-PGH community in a bad light and unfairly suggested that the authorities had done "nothing" to help F.

It was not F's lawyer who first called their attention to F's plight, she says, but F's faculty supervisor, Dr. Valerie Chan, who first learned of the incident when she asked after F's welfare because of the student's faltering academic performance. "It was Dr. Chan who reported the matter to Dr. Johnny Nanagas (then PGH director), who called a meeting with, among others, F and her classmates and sorority sisters. Dr. Nanagas was shocked to hear her story. It was in this meeting where the student was advised to seek legal counsel on top of the psychological support she was already receiving. In the meantime, Dr. Nanagas promised to investigate the matter."

My friend protests the picture painted of "the culture of PGH" as one encouraging sexual harassment (though she does concede the "ortho" department has really been known as a hotbed of machismo). It was this "culture," she points out, that thoroughly investigated F's charges and, finding "probable cause," recommended the case for a formal hearing, with a committee formed and 25 hearings held so far. A separate investigation on the "ortho party" was conducted, with the department found liable and given a reprimand. UP Manila Chancellor Dr. Marita Reyes closely monitored the hearings, "even listening and acting on feedback re the conduct of the hearings." And as far as my friend knows, F's request to do her ortho rotation outside UP-PGH has been approved.

The machos in the ortho department, however, are another story altogether. Not only was Dr. M appointed chief resident, he was also nominated as a "Model Ortho Resident" in a national competition, a development that, my friend says, "escapes logic and sensitivity."

Democracy

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

CONSIDERING that almost all the past presidents of this country have been chosen by, and have served, mainly the elites and the middle classes, a yearning by the poor to change the rules of the game would not be unreasonable or farfetched. Those of us who do not suffer from material deprivation should be thankful then that the many who live from meal to meal still opt for peaceful elections rather than revolution as the path to a just society.

But sometimes this is not the way we see things. We prefer that the poor completely entrust the business of governing to us who are well-off and better educated. In our conceit, we think we have a larger stake in this country just because we pay more income tax, forgetting that everything that the poor consume is also taxed. So we sometimes hear exasperated talk proposing that we raise the minimum qualification for our national officials, and limit the right of suffrage to the educated. Such sentiments have an affinity with the demand to put an end to politics altogether. They are drawn from the same well that nurtures other more visible forms of tyranny.

Our readiness to substitute the efficient tyranny of the few for the haphazardness of a deeply flawed democracy is of course understandable. We have seen how our country has been left behind by its neighbors. We note with alarm the increasing costs of bad government. We worry about our growing inability to provide for the millions of Filipinos who are born every year. Against these urgent realities, we watch helplessly while corrupt and incompetent leaders are elected year after year by dependent and uninformed voters. We stand by in disgust when our leaders endlessly bicker with one another and fail to attend to the serious business of running the nation. In our minds, the stage is set for a wise philosopher-king who would have the complete blueprint for the best government we need. If we had such a ruler, we tell ourselves, all that is left is for obedient citizens to carry out what is decreed.

"It has always been a great temptation," warns the philosopher Hannah Arendt, "for men of action no less than for men of thought, to find a substitute for action in the hope that the realm of human affairs may escape the haphazardness and moral irresponsibility inherent in a plurality of agents.... The trouble with these forms of government is not that they are cruel, which often they are not, but rather that they work too well.... But they all have in common the banishment of the citizens from the public realm and the insistence that they mind their private business while only 'the ruler should attend to public affairs.'...It is the obvious short-range advantages of tyranny, the advantages of stability, security, and productivity, that one should beware, if only because they pave the way to an inevitable loss of power, even though the actual disaster may occur in a relatively distant future."

I bring up these thoughts here because of the haughty way in which many have greeted the entry of Fernando Poe Jr. into the 2004 presidential race. Some have dismissively commented on the composition of the crowd that was shown on TV accompanying FPJ to the Manila Hotel press conference where he announced his decision. With the exception of Sen. Tito Sotto, they were all nameless and unknown. But so what? Isn't this what democracy is about? And doesn't this precisely reflect the essential plurality of human affairs?

That a man who has avoided politics all his life, preferring to focus on his work as a movie actor and director in which he has firmer control, should feel compelled to respond to the clamor of his fans to enter a field in which he knows little speaks volumes about the despair of the poor who support him. Clearly, if there is a lesson they learned from the interrupted term of Erap, it is that they should use the power of their numbers again and again to elect a president they admire and trust.

It is a pattern that we have seen in the election of personalities that made their mark mainly through the mass media—Noli de Castro, Loren Legarda, Ramon Revilla, Robert Jaworski, Sotto and many more like them. The final test of their fitness for office is not the relevant knowledge or experience they bring to their positions but the quality of their performance once they are elected. Here it would seem that the distinction between those previously trained for political affairs and those who had come in from the cold is barely noticeable. Only a few of our elected national officials have been truly outstanding. The proper response to this lack, of course, should be a sustained program of recruitment and training of public leaders, the way the major political parties do it in Europe. Unfortunately, none of our political parties appears ready or interested to undertake this on any long-term basis.

Our politicians, in fact, seem more interested in maintaining themselves in power, even if this means swallowing their pride,, by riding on the popularity of public idols. This is not something new by the way. By themselves our politicians have always had a hard time mustering crowds during elections, and so they usually hire actors, entertainers and celebrities to grace their campaigns. Now the crowds have decided it may be better to elect the actors themselves than the professional politicians who have consistently mismanaged the country.

It is sad. But this is still preferable to a tyranny run by the educated few who claim to know all the answers and reserve no role for the masses in public life.

* * *

Comments to randolf@pacific.net.ph

The neoconservative strain in George Bush

COMMENTARY

Ricardo S. Malay

THE MISFORTUNES of George W. Bush in Iraq were a disaster waiting to happen. Based on cherry-picked and politically expedient intelligence, the decision to invade Iraq was sold to the American people on grounds that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. A subtext was the existence of an Osama bin Laden-Saddam Hussein terror nexus. With the trauma of 9/11 still haunting them, the overwhelming majority readily accepted the case for war as a done deal. Today, after eight months of occupation, the illicit weapons have yet to be found and the malignant connection remains more fiction than fact. Meanwhile, the war is in for a long, hard slog—in the pained rumination of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld—and public opinion at home is stacked against the White House.

Who betrayed the American people and why is the war turning against the occupation forces? Certainly, the Iraq war bore the signature of President Bush who reincarnated the image of an unthawed cold warrior. But the culprit that dragged the country to a problematic war is one that answers to the name of neoconservatism, a philosophy that is a variant of mainstream conservatism and the more recent strain of paleoconservatism.

Neoconservatism was brought to American shores in the late '30s by an immigrant scholar from Nazi Germany, Leo Strauss. He taught at the University of Chicago where he polished a theory that posits war as the natural state of mankind. Only belief in a mortal enemy can unify the populace and invest the political regime with meaning. The advanced and powerful state, he reasoned, had the moral duty to lead the weak and powerless ones. His mind borrowed from the teachings of Plato and Hobbes whence he immersed himself during his academic life in his native Germany.

The Straussian construct found resonance in many young Americans in the '50s and '60s who were attracted to, but were later disenchanted with radical liberalism. After Strauss died in 1973, the mantle of the neoconservative cause was picked up by the Jewish-American scholar Irving Kristol, who kindled the crusade against communism with cogent philosophical insights. Ronald Reagan was influenced to a great degree by Kristol, the acknowledged father of present-day neoconservatism.

For some time, the neocon heirs were hardly a visible force in American politics. In the early part of the '90s, they sketched a neoconservative vision called Project for a New American Century which promised to be a tonic that would energize a weak foreign policy. As a first step, they urged the Clinton presidency to wage war on Iraq on the now familiar ground that Saddam's regime posed a clear and present danger to America. Their brief brought no response from the Democrat Clinton who was uncomfortable with neocon philosophy co-existing with his liberal presidency.

The election of George W. Bush paved the way for the neoconservative entry into the mainstream political scene. Bush, with the right-wing vote tucked under his belt, was the natural front man for the neoconservative cause. Captivated by its gung-ho message that America must spread free-enterprise capitalism in anti-American Third World regimes, with force if they resist, the president assembled the brightest neocon minds in his administration with the task of quarterbacking his foreign policy.

Today, the Iraq invasion is acknowledged to have been hatched by the likes of Dick Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz, Douglas Feith, Richard Perle and John Bolton. Their fellow travelers include the foremost warlord of all, Rumsfeld, Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice. They are taking the heat for a wrong-footed war that could have political repercussions for President Bush, even as they scramble for an "exit strategy" in the face of mounting criticism from the Democratic presidential hopefuls, media and broad sections of the American public.

The neocon-tailored plan for Iraq calls for the transfer of political power to the Iraqis by next year and the writing of an interim constitution. All this looks good on the ground except that self-rule will sit cheek-by-jowl with occupation, a much-detested target of the Iraqi population. As for the constitution, Gov. Paul Bremer has given assurances that it will embody "American values," possibly including a clause for military bases. So much for convincing Iraqis that they are about to be free again.

Lying as policy has never been more blatant than in the Bush administration. The evasions, deception and manipulation on the Iraq adventure are but an axiom of the Straussian uses of the "ideal lie": to spare the people's feelings and to protect the elite from possible reprisals. Lies, in the neocon schema, are necessary to protect the superior few from the persecution of the vulgar many.

The American presidency is not immune from the utility of subterfuge, those with historical recall will agree. In a previous generation, Lyndon B. Johnson fabricated the Tonkin Gulf attack on American warships to justify going to war in Vietnam. The humiliating US defeat in Vietnam has faint echoes in the Iraq war. Bush, who keeps a bust of Winston Churchill in the Oval Office, would do well to heed his words, said during a bleak period in World War II: "The British people can face peril or misfortune with fortitude and buoyancy, but they bitterly resent being deceived or finding that those responsible for their affairs are themselves dwelling in a fool's paradise."

Ricardo S. Malay, an on-and-off journalist, finds Iraq watching an engrossing avocation.

THEY SAID

Strong, not strong

"No, the administration is strong, but not that strong. The opposite of strong is not strong."

—Presidential deputy spokesperson Ricardo Saludo, replying to a question whether the President was admitting her administration was weak when she said "our republic is not that strong"

Survivor

"Even if you toss him up like a cat, when he lands he would be on his four feet."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo, referring to Speaker Jose de Venecia

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN

How do we stop kidnapping?

THE FUNERAL of slain kidnap victim Betti Chua Sy, a 32-year-old executive of Coca-Cola, turned into a huge rally for the lifting of the moratorium on the execution of people convicted of heinous crimes.

"Death to kidnappers," and "Justice for Betti Sy" were among the streamers unfurled during the funeral, which was attended mostly by Chinese Filipinos, the prime target of kidnap-for-ransom gangs.

Taking his cue from the Chinese-Filipino community, Manila Rep. Harry Angping has filed a resolution calling for the immediate implementation of the death penalty law, which, he believes, will deter kidnapping.

The Citizens' Action Against Crime claims that the country has found itself in the worst kidnapping situation in a decade. It says more than 100 cases of abduction have been recorded so far this year.

The surge in kidnapping has prompted some lawmakers to accuse anti-kidnapping czar Angelo Reyes of not doing his job. But the killing of the leader of the country's most wanted kidnap-for-ransom gang in Dinalupihan, Bataan a day after Sy's kidnapping was solved silenced some of his critics.Despite the strong lobby from the Chinese-Filipino community, President Macapagal-Arroyo has not lifted the moratorium on the death penalty, saying that the execution of hardened criminals has not deterred the commission of heinous crimes.

The key to preventing kidnapping is a vigilant citizenry, a no-nonsense police force and an effective judicial system.

Our fight deserves every sector's support

By Angelo T. Reyes
Anti-kidnapping presidential adviser

There is no doubt that lifting the moratorium on the death penalty can be a deterrent to kidnapping in the country. However, true as it maybe, we rather look at it as just one aspect of the solution.

The strategy of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) is four-pronged—effective deterrence, neutralization of active kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) groups, filing of appropriate charges against those involved in kidnapping and swift administration of justice.

In recent weeks, the kidnapping bogeyman has struck again and has caused fear and trepidation to society, specially the Chinese-Filipino community. While the incidence of kidnapping has actually decreased in October and November, the recent kidnapping of Betti Chua Sy and a 10-year-old girl has hogged the headlines.

President Macapagal-Aroyo signed Executive Order 248 on Oct. 26 creating the Office of the Anti-Kidnapping Presidential Adviser, and subsequently, Naktaf, to address the menace of kidnapping in the country and to stress the government's resolve to neutralize it.

No child's play

Addressing the kidnapping menace is no child's play. It is in fact a herculean task and someone has to do it. However hard the task, Naktaf will toil day and night to ensure that kidnappers do not roam free to abduct people and hold hostage the nation's peace and order.

The prospect for a kidnapping-free Philippines will be brighter if we are united.

We are in the midst of a daunting battle against kidnapping. I believe that our fight deserves every sector's support and cooperation.

As the incidence of kidnapping continues to rise, so does the government's resolve to neutralize it. Naktaf seeks to address this menace. The government is firm in its resolve to end this problem. We will meet these forces of evil with all the capabilities of our law enforcement apparatus.

Public support

Naktaf's objectives include the neutralization of targeted kidnap-for-ransom groups, the reduction of the vulnerability of victims, strengthening of public support, creating a safe and secure environment in Metro Manila, and bringing the kidnappers behind bars.

Since Oct. 26, Naktaf has chalked up modest accomplishment in improving its operational capability, mobilizing its legal teams and tracking down KFRGs.

On Oct. 3, Roberto Obeles Yap, the leader of the most notorious Obeles KFR group was killed by PR03 elements during an encounter in Dinalupihan, Bataan, together with three of his companions. The other members of the gang were captured during follow-up operations in Nueva Ecija.

In terms of capability development, Naktaf has enhanced its operations center, improved the communication and mobility of operating units and beefed up its technical intelligence capability.

Legal offensive

To strengthen its legal offensive, Naktaf has asked the Department of Justice and National Prosecution Service to accelerate the prosecution of cases. In turn, NPS has created a Task Force of 20 special prosecutors to work on this.

Naktaf has combined the competencies of police and military intelligence units to go after the remaining active KFR groups.

Despite these, Naktaf knows that the challenge remains formidable. To defeat and deter kidnappers, new capabilities and approaches need to be developed and undertaken, such as the following:

1. Increase police visibility by creating police/security outposts, and directing police officers to "walk their beat." In tandem with this, establish mobile and stationary checkpoints.

2. Augment police presence and capability with the strength of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Allowing AFP personnel to serve duty alongside their Philippine National Police counterparts in strategic spots, such as the gateways to Manila, near malls, and in difficult spots will lessen the kidnappers' options to strike.

3. Secure the commitment of various agencies and local government units particularly the Metro Manila Development Authority, and make them aggressively contribute to the continuing campaign against kidnapping.

The kidnappers shall not be allowed to get away with this evil. We shall not stop until these KFR groups are seized and brought to justice. I ask our *kababayans* to be vigilant at all times.

The Naktaf—with your help—shall meet the problem of kidnapping with more focus and greater resolve. We will meet force with force.

We all have to be together in this fight. Let us all close ranks to make our country a better and safer place for our children. There is no better place for kidnappers than behind bars.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G.RODRIGUEZ

Implement the death penalty

By the Chinese-Filipino Community Peace and Order Coordinating Council

Kidnapping-for-ransom gangs are getting bolder. Once again it strikes fear in our communities. The killing of 32-year-old Betti Chua Sy blatantly violates the peace of our land.

She was an outstanding student and a successful executive. We are saddened and enraged by the loss of such a promising life. Barely three days after, a 10-year-old girl was brazenly abducted in front of her school.

Regardless of the motives for the kidnappings and despite the unusual circumstances surrounding the death of Betti, these crimes must be solved.

Guided by reason and sensibility, we ask the government to:

1. Vigorously go after the masterminds who organized the kidnappings.

2. Establish a special trial court in Metro Manila for kidnapping cases to try the perpetrators and to strictly adhere to the provisions of the Speedy Trial Act. The Supreme Court should designate an appellate division to exclusively dispose of dilatory appeals with dispatch.

3. Commit necessary resources to the National Anti-kidnapping Task Force and prioritize the effective implementation of its program of action.

4. Implement the death penalty for convicted kidnappers.

We will support and complement government initiatives to turn the tide against those who violate the law. We believe that order will eventually reign and justice will triumph.

Death is never the answer

By Rodolfo D. Diamante
Executive Secretary
Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines-ECPPC reiterates that the death penalty is an affront to the human dignity of both those on whom it is inflicted and those in whose name it is employed. Killing people is a rejection of God's call to "love one another as I have loved you."

There is no doubt that our society is plagued with criminality of all forms and magnitude. Our government has to show that it is doing something to address this problem.

The death penalty is a convenient escape to hide the fact that our leaders and law enforcers have not really addressed the root as well as the immediate causes of crime.

There lies their inefficiency that has to be covered with cosmetics. And the death penalty makes an effective cosmetic: "an eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth," "crime does not pay," "vengeance is mine"—a lexicon of age-old wisdom no one feels contesting. This is supplemented by new ones: "our society should be given samples of what could happen to would-be criminals." And yet, past and recent studies tell us that the death penalty is not an effective deterrence to the commission of crime.

Travesty

The death penalty is a travesty of efficiency in fighting criminality and has become an effective tool for politicking. Astute politicians will carry the cause of death for the convicted not because they believe in it as an appropriate national policy, but because it is a popular cause. And yet the popular is not necessarily correct.

The CBCP-ECPPC acknowledges the depth and sincerity of our people's concern about the problem of crime. However, as Christians, we are called to uphold and proclaim a set of moral principles and social teachings at the heart of which is the knowledge that the human person is central, the clearest reflection of God among us. Human life is inherently precious and those who commit crimes do not give up their human dignity.

Death penalty is the easy way out of addressing the complex and pervasive problems of criminality. It is not the answer for violent crimes as abortion is for unplanned pregnancies. Death is never the answer.

We appeal to the President not to resort to a quick fix solution to the problem of criminality. We urge our leaders and lawmakers to stop giving us false hope that we will be safe and secure by putting people to death.

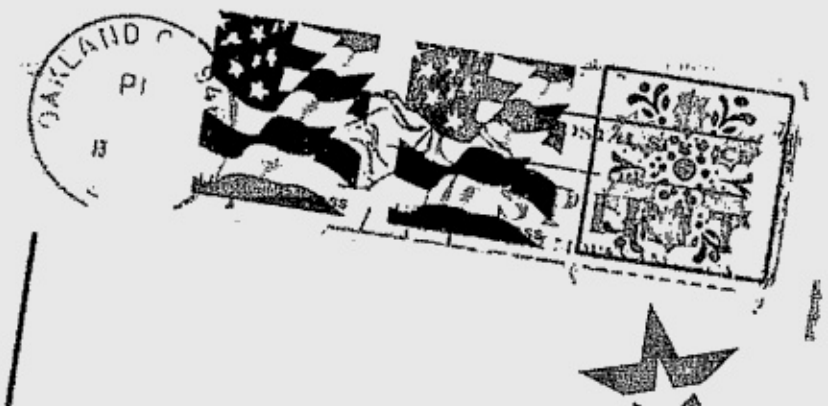
Dear Fellow Pinoys,

Ang daming gulo na nangyayari sa 'pinas. Para sa aming mga Fil-Am at Fil-Canadian, nakakalungkot. Because even if we're far away, nandiyan pa rin ang puso namin.

But don't give up. Laging may pag-asa. At sa tingin namin, ang pag-asa ng bayan para sa totoong kaunlaran, na kay RAUL ROCO. Kaya siya ang susuportahan namin. Sana, kayo rin.

Wish we were there for the Convention of Hope!

Nagmamahal,
Mga Volunteers4Roco
sa US at Canada



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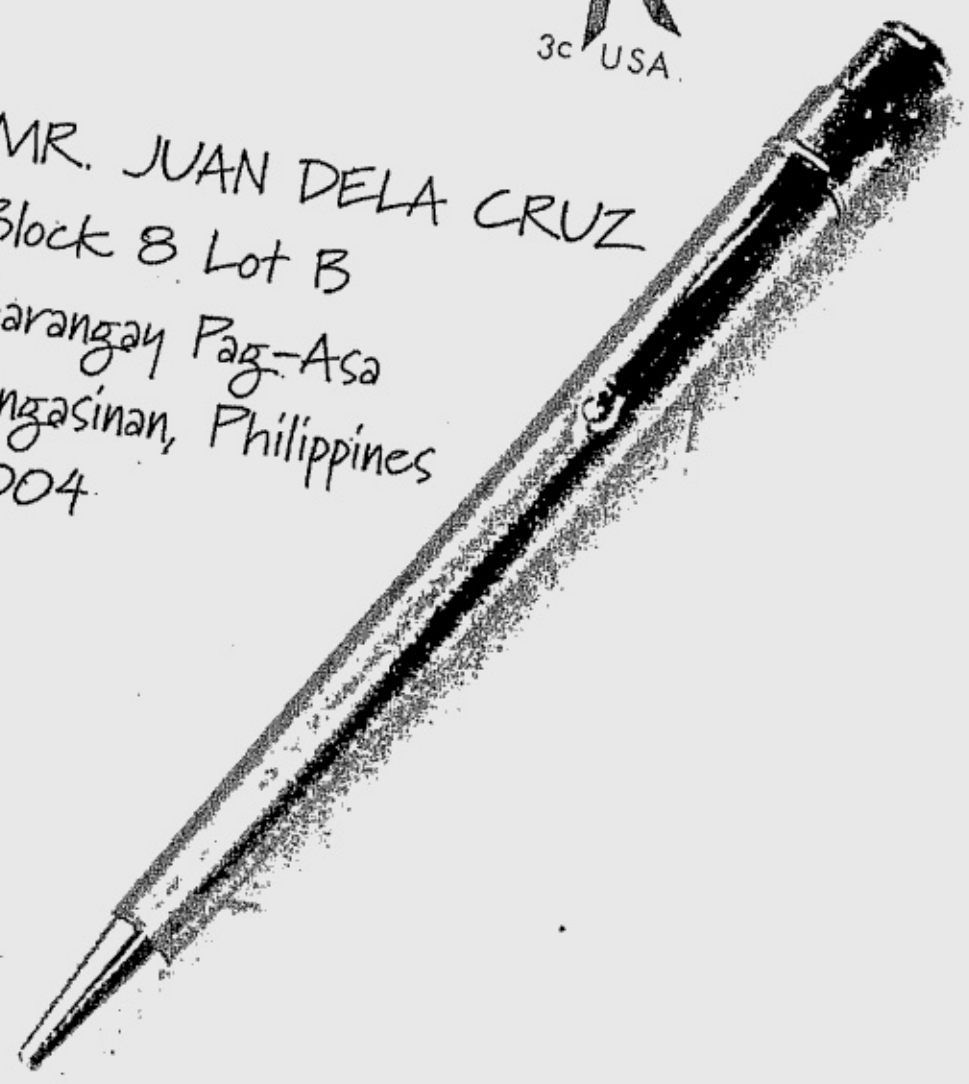

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Davao airport finished after 11 yrs

DAVAO CITY—Starting Tuesday, air travelers from and to Southern Mindanao would be treated with world-class amenities as the newly finished Davao International Airport (DIA) starts operation.

The DIA, which has been mired in controversy and took almost 11 years to complete, sits on a 204 hectare of land adjacent to the old facility.

President Macapagal-Arroyo jets in on Monday in time for the inauguration of the P5.5 billion state-of-the-art facility that could accommodate about 1.2 million travelers per year.

Neil Punzalan, DIA consultant, said that initially, the new airport would cater to 14 domestic flights and five international flights per day.

But the airport's actual capacity is 7-10 aircraft in parking positions and 8-10 aircraft landings per hour.

The new airport's terminal building, which was designed using typical Malay architecture, is fire-proof.

The DIA has six major buildings including the control tower, cargo terminal building, fire crash rescue building, central plant and maintenance.

The carpeted terminal building, which could accommodate more than 1,000 passengers per day, has been fitted with elevators and escalators and has an automatic door system.

It also boasts of a clinic, child care and prayer rooms.

In an apparent effort to boost the airport's security following the deadly blast in March that killed more than 20 people, authorities installed black close-circuit TV in major areas like baggage counters, arrival baggage area, lounges and outside the building.

Four X-ray machines will also be installed in time for the inauguration.

But even with the scheduled opening of the airport, reports about the structure's defects continue to circulate here.

The reports were based on an earlier finding by the DOTC Project Implementation Unit (PIU) that there were cracks in the slabs of the terminal building.

The Davao Airport Consultants (DAC), a group of consultants hired to design and eventually supervise the implementation of the project, found that there were indeed defects in the design of the beams.

The DAC implemented a retrofitting mechanism that reinforced the beam loads.

Transportation Assistant Secretary Robert Castanares said the issue on the airport's structural defects had been resolved.

Castanares told reporters here that construction errors has been rectified and DOTC experts have already issued the appropriate safety certification. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Bulacan gov answers raps

DESCRIBING the graft charges filed against her by a non-government group before the Office of the Ombudsman as "baseless and absurd," Bulacan Gov. Josefina "Josie" dela Cruz yesterday expressed confidence that the government's anti-graft body will eventually clear her.

"It is unfortunate that in their desperate attempt to discredit my administration and even my family, some politicians and vested interest groups have resorted to a ... demolition job against me," Dela Cruz said in a press statement.

She also disputed claims made by lawyer Demetrio Alday, head of the so-called Bumago Ka (Bulakeno para sa Mabuting Gobyerno at Kaunlaran) that there was an irregularity in the purchase of 53 vehicles from the Freeway Motor Sales of Baliwag Corp.

"This Bogus NGO is nothing but a group of individuals with obnoxious political agenda bent on destroying me," she said.

Dela Cruz also said Bumago Ka tried to falsify documents and feed malicious and wrong information which aims to discredit her administration.

Provincial records showed that from January to November this year, only 39 vehicles were bought by the province. Of these, 26 were given to the Philippine National Police, two were ambulances and 11 were assigned to the different departments of the province.

Dela Cruz said her brother, Joselito Mendoza, had divested himself of shares in Freeway since Sept. 25, 2000.

2 shootings prompt joint investigation

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Commission on Human Rights and the Negros Oriental Provincial Attorney's Office will jointly investigate the recent shootings in Mabinay, a town some 85 km northwest of here, amid suspicion that people close to a police officer had a hand in the killing of at least two persons, including a barangay captain.

Provincial Attorney Erwin Vergara said they would conduct the inquiry on the request of the relatives of Sonie Baldado, the slain village chief of Barangay Bugnay, Mabinay, some residents and officials of the town.

Baldado was killed by a single shot in the head on Nov. 16.

Quoting witnesses, Vergara said a week before Baldado's shooting, the barangay captain disarmed a person close to a police officer in Mabinay for carrying a firearm without a permit.

The name of that person and the police officer is withheld pending investigation.

Earlier, a gunman who wore a bonnet executed a suspected thief in broad daylight in the public market of Mabinay.

Vergara, who hails from Mabinay, said many residents in town are now very concerned with the peace and order situation in the area.

Mabinay police chief Senior Insp. Petronilo Gracia said the shootings in Mabinay could possibly be a result of some people getting fed up with criminals preying on innocent civilians in the town.

On the killing of Baldado, Gracia said the police have already identified a suspect, adding that personal grudge could be the motive for the killing. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Club Marinduqueño

THE CLUB Marinduqueño Inc. will celebrate its 12th anniversary with a social gathering and fund-raising activity at 7 p.m., Dec. 6 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City. The group is a civic organization of professionals and successful natives of Marinduque that helps less fortunate Marinduqueños, according to its president, Capt. Emmanuel Regio. For details contact Sandy Villamayor, 7356021; Dr. Leo Gonzales, 8926809; and Susan Solmirano, 3307208. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Davao airport finished after 11 yrs

DAVAO CITY—Starting Tuesday, air travelers from and to Southern Mindanao would be treated with world-class amenities as the newly finished Davao International Airport (DIA) starts operation.

The DIA, which has been mired in controversy and took almost 11 years to complete, sits on a 204 hectare of land adjacent to the old facility.

President Macapagal-Arroyo jets in on Monday in time for the inauguration of the P5.5 billion state-of-the-art facility that could accommodate about 1.2 million travelers per year.

Neil Punzalan, DIA consultant, said that initially, the new airport would cater to 14 domestic flights and five international flights per day.

But the airport's actual capacity is 7-10 aircraft in parking positions and 8-10 aircraft landings per hour.

The new airport's terminal building, which was designed using typical Malay architecture, is fire-proof.

The DIA has six major buildings including the control tower, cargo terminal building, fire crash rescue building, central plant and maintenance.

The carpeted terminal building, which could accommodate more than 1,000 passengers per day, has been fitted with elevators and escalators and has an automatic door system.

It also boasts of a clinic, child care and prayer rooms.

In an apparent effort to boost the airport's security following the deadly blast in March that killed more than 20 people, authorities installed black close-circuit TV in major areas like baggage counters, arrival baggage area, lounges and outside the building.

Four X-ray machines will also be installed in time for the inauguration.

But even with the scheduled opening of the airport, reports about the structure's defects continue to circulate here.

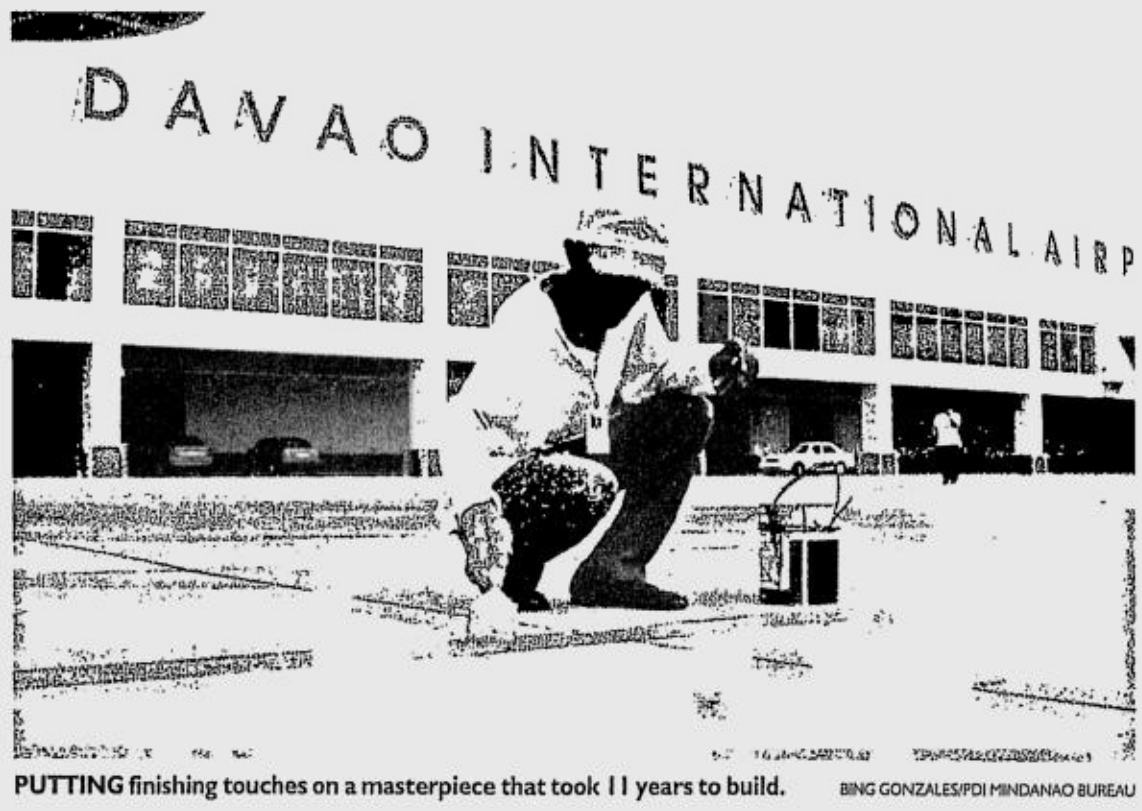
The reports were based on an earlier finding by the DOTC Project Implementation Unit (PIU) that there were cracks in the slabs of the terminal building.

The Davao Airport Consultants (DAC), a group of consultants hired to design and eventually supervise the implementation of the project, found that there were indeed defects in the design of the beams.

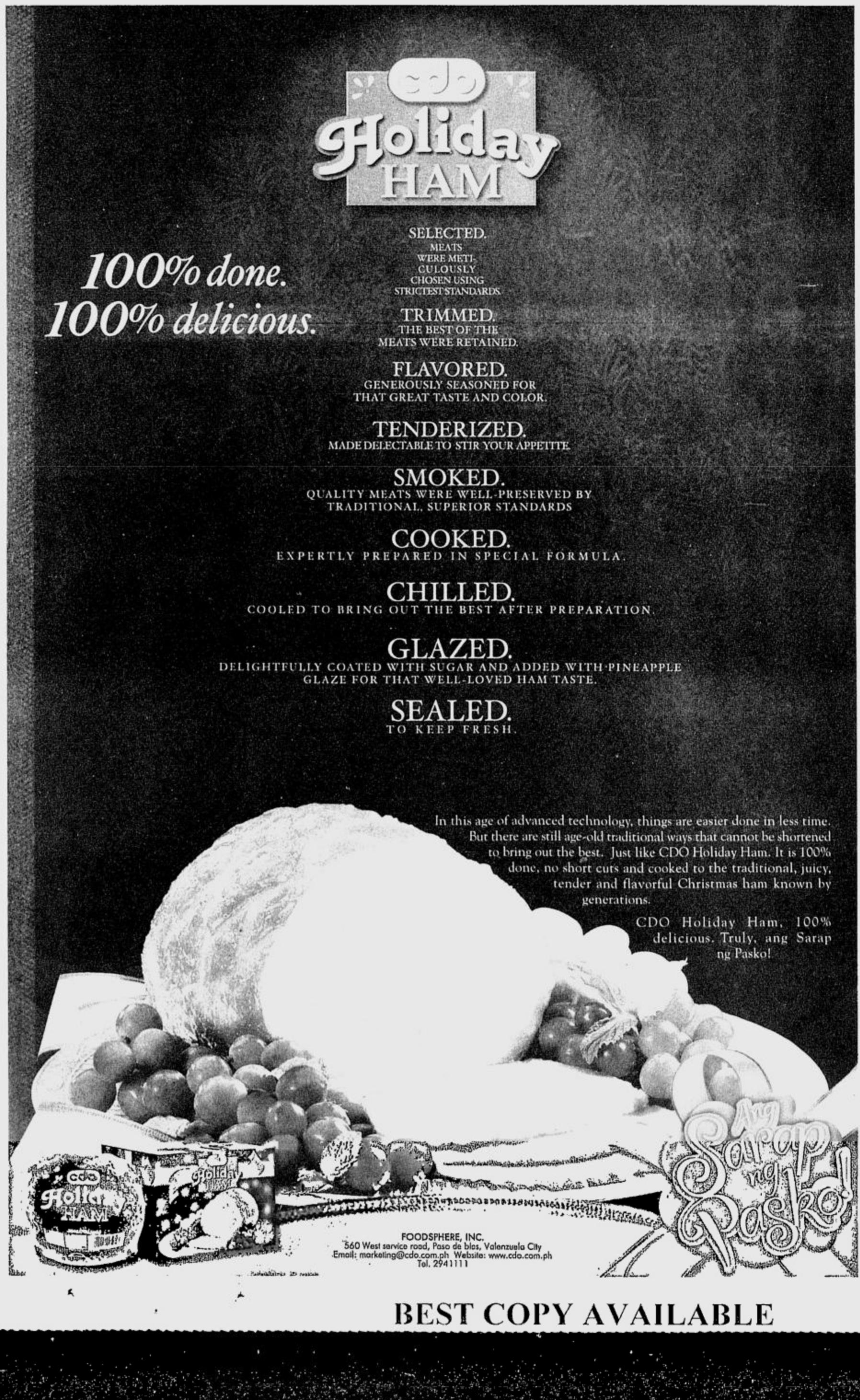
The DAC implemented a retrofitting mechanism that reinforced the beam loads.

Transportation Assistant Secretary Robert Castanares said the issue on the airport's structural defects had been resolved.

Castanares told reporters here that construction errors has been rectified and DOTC experts have already issued the appropriate safety certification. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



PUTTING finishing touches on a masterpiece that took 11 years to build. BING GONZALES/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU



Bulacan gov answers raps

DESCRIBING the graft charges filed against her by a non-government group before the Office of the Ombudsman as "baseless and absurd," Bulacan Gov. Josefina "Josie" dela Cruz yesterday expressed confidence that the government's anti-graft body will eventually clear her.

"It is unfortunate that in their desperate attempt to discredit my administration and even my family, some politicians and vested interest groups have resorted to a ... demolition job against me," Dela Cruz said in a press statement.

She also disputed claims made by lawyer Demetrio Alday, head of the so-called Bumago Ka (Bulakeno para sa Mabuting Gobyerno at Kaunlaran) that there was an irregularity in the purchase of 53 vehicles from the Freeway Motor Sales of Baliwag Corp.

"This Bogus NGO is nothing but a group of individuals with obnoxious political agenda bent on destroying me," she said.

Dela Cruz also said Bumago Ka tried to falsify documents and feed malicious and wrong information which aims to discredit her administration.

Provincial records showed that from January to November this year, only 39 vehicles were bought by the province. Of these, 26 were given to the Philippine National Police, two were ambulances and 11 were assigned to the different departments of the province.

Dela Cruz said her brother, Joselito Mendoza, had divested himself of shares in Freeway since Sept. 25, 2000.

2 shootings prompt joint investigation

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Commission on Human Rights and the Negros Oriental Provincial Attorney's Office will jointly investigate the recent shootings in Mabinay, a town some 85 km northwest of here, amid suspicion that people close to a police officer had a hand in the killing of at least two persons, including a barangay captain.

Provincial Attorney Erwin Vergara said they would conduct the inquiry on the request of the relatives of Sonie Baldado, the slain village chief of Barangay Bugnay, Mabinay, some residents and officials of the town.

Baldado was killed by a single shot in the head on Nov. 16.

Quoting witnesses, Vergara said a week before Baldado's shooting, the barangay captain disarmed a person close to a police officer in Mabinay for carrying a firearm without a permit.

The name of that person and the police officer is withheld pending investigation.

Earlier, a gunman who wore a bonnet executed a suspected thief in broad daylight in the public market of Mabinay.

Vergara, who hails from Mabinay, said many residents in town are now very concerned with the peace and order situation in the area.

Mabinay police chief Senior Insp. Petronilo Gracia said the shootings in Mabinay could possibly be a result of some people getting fed up with criminals preying on innocent civilians in the town.

On the killing of Baldado, Gracia said the police have already identified a suspect, adding that personal grudge could be the motive for the killing. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Club Marinduqueño

THE CLUB Marinduqueño Inc. will celebrate its 12th anniversary with a social gathering and fund-raising activity at 7 p.m., Dec. 6 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City. The group is a civic organization of professionals and successful natives of Marinduque that helps less fortunate Marinduqueños, according to its president, Capt. Emmanuel Regio. For details contact Sandy Villamayor, 7356021; Dr. Leo Gonzales, 8926809; and Susan Solmirano, 3307208. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Tribal community relents, OKs mine exploration on its land

TAMPAKAN, South Cotabato—A tribal community strongly opposing any mining activity in its ancestral domain finally softened and allowed the Tampakan Mineral Resources Corporation (TMRC) to conduct mining exploration in the boundaries of the provinces of South Cotabato, Sarangani, Davao Del Sur and Sultan Kudarat.

uanito Malid, tribal chieftain and chair of the Salnaong Tribal Council, told the INQUIRER: "It was the people's decision to allow TMRC to conduct exploration activity in the area."

The Salnaong Tribal Council was the only tribal council which refused to sign any agreement with the Western Mining Company, an Australian mining firm.

WMC was the original holder of the Financial Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) covering some 100,000 of forest land in the area.

The council has allied itself with the Justice and Peace Desk (JPD) of the Diocese of Marbel based in Koronadal City in opposing the entry of any mining firm in the area.

Later, its staunch opposition sent WMC away.

Malid said he already informed Sr. Susan Bolanio, executive director of the JPD, regarding the council's decision to allow TMRC, a joint venture of a local firm and Indophil, another Australian mining company, to conduct mining exploration in the area.

The mining site is right in the heart of the B'laan's ancestral domain and is covered by a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC) issued by the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP).

The members of the Salnaong Tribal Council and the officials of TMRC led by Tony W. Robins signed the preliminary agreement on Wednesday afternoon in Barangay Datal Blao in Columbio, Sultan Kudarat.

Also present during the signing were other tribal leaders, NCIP officials, Mines and Geosciences Bureau officials and representatives from the local government of Columbio.

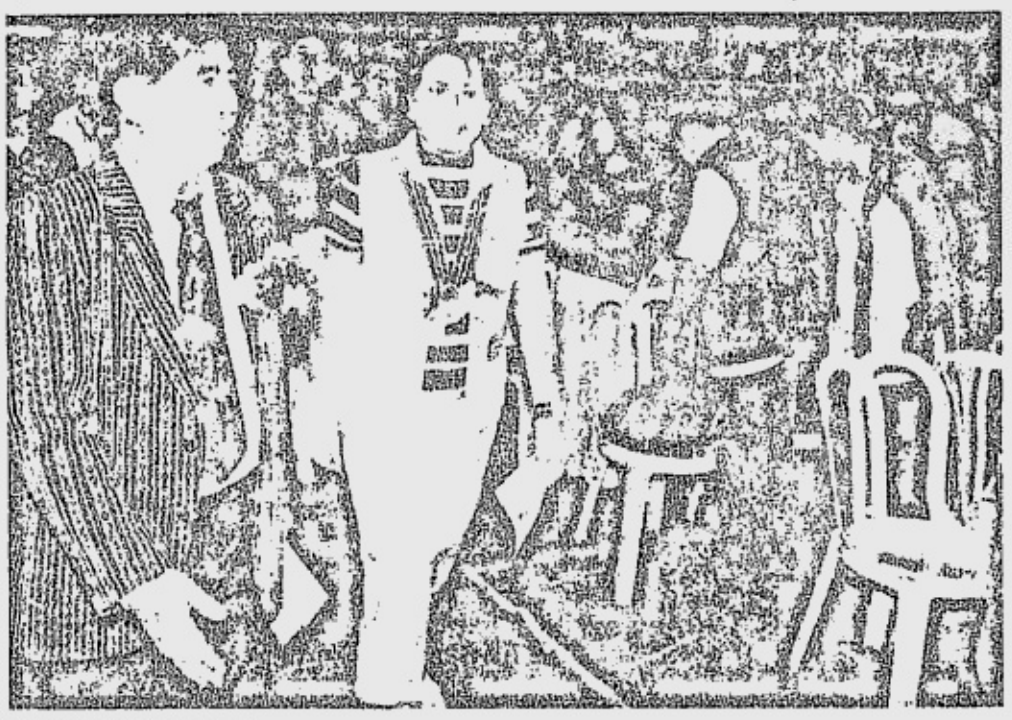
By signing the agreement, the Salnaong Tribal Council will get about P1.5 million in annual development assistance from the TMRC.

The amount will be used for livelihood projects, education and other development projects aimed at alleviating the plight of tribal residents in the project area.

Both parties said they expected to come up with a final agreement before the end of next month.

Majun Malid, the eldest tribal leader in the area, asked the TMRC to respect the culture and traditions of the B'laans in the area.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau



BENGUET SORTIE

Opposition Sen. Tessie Aquino Oreta is welcomed to the Benguet State University by school president Rogelio Colting. The senator was at the university recently to win support for a bill she filed seeking a P10 billion start-up fund to upgrade the computer skills of students and teachers.

PHOTO FROM ORETA OFFICE

STRONG EVIDENCE

Ecleo bid for bail junked

By Suzzane Salva
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Any hope by his family and followers that cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. would be able to spend Christmas with them was dashed Friday when the court denied his petition for bail.

Cebu Regional Trial Court Judge Generosa Labra said the prosecution's evidence against Ecleo was strong.

Ecleo faces parricide charges for the slaying of his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo presumably on Jan. 5, 2002, the day she disappeared.

The decomposing body of Alona, 27, was found inside a garbage bag that was dumped in Barangay Coro, Dalaguete town, some 85 km south of Cebu City, on Jan. 8, 2002. Her family reported her missing on Jan. 6. Autopsy reports showed Alona died of strangulation.

The judge said that while there were no eyewitnesses to the killing of Alona, the prosecution was able to present circumstantial evidence that showed Ecleo could have killed his wife.

But Labra said her ruling on Ecleo's petition for bail could in no way be interpreted that Ecleo was already guilty of murdering his wife.

"It's too early to say that. [Ecleo's guilt] could not be determined now," she said since the defense has yet to present its evidence.

Ecleo, the "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), has denied the charges.

Labra heard six prosecution witnesses, including Alona's brother, who testified seeing the couple fight on the day she disappeared.

"The testimony of prosecution witnesses are entitled to full faith and credit as they have no motive to falsely testify against the accused," Labra said.

Lawyer Orlando Salatandre Jr., one of Ecleo's defense counsels, said he was surprised by the decision because he believed the defense team had "successfully disproved" the witnesses' testimony.

Salatandre said he and his co-counsel, Giovanni Mata, and Agusan Rep. Glenda Ecleo, Ruben's mother, were planning to file a motion for reconsideration and would go to the Court of Appeals if this was denied.

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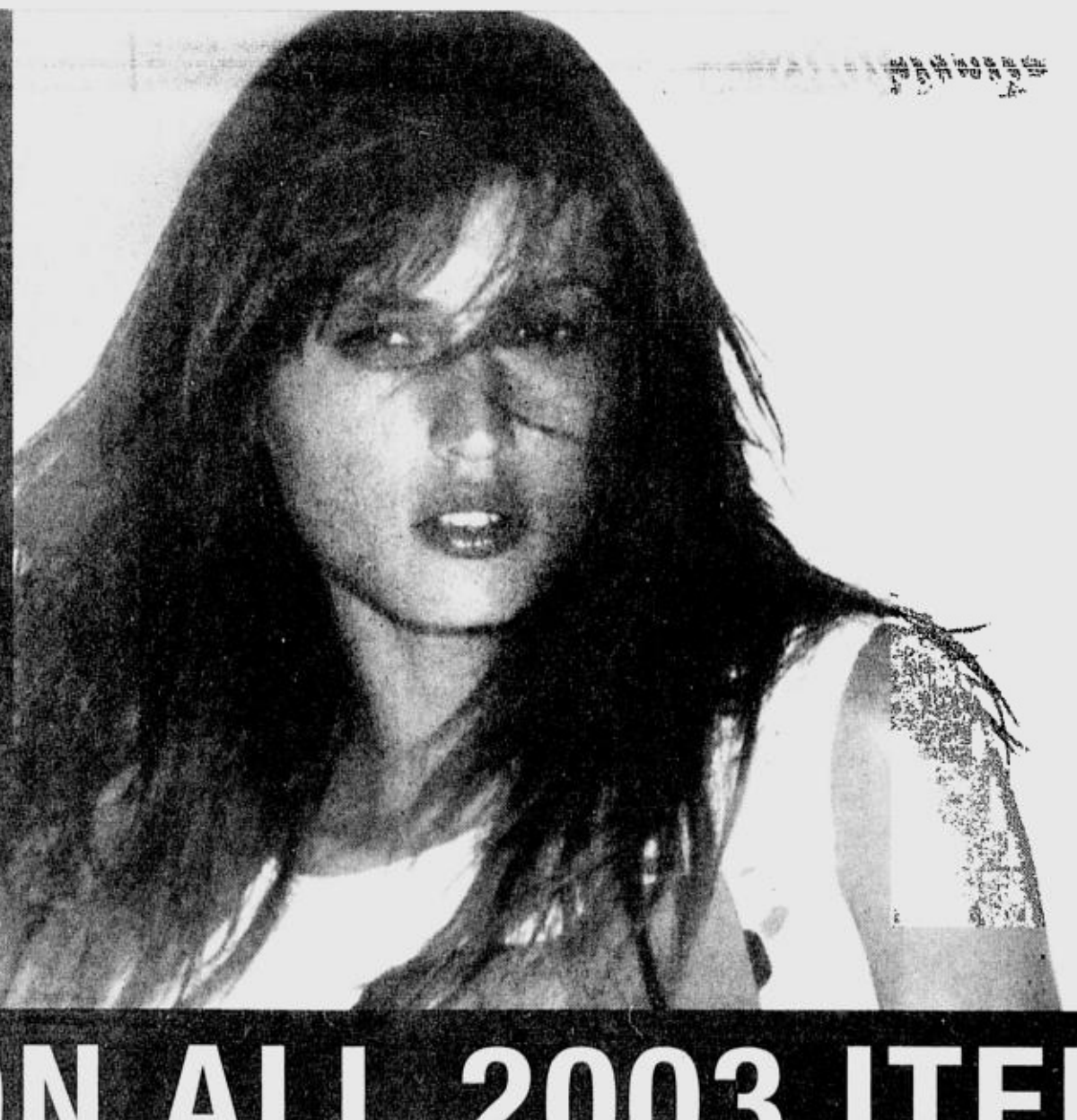

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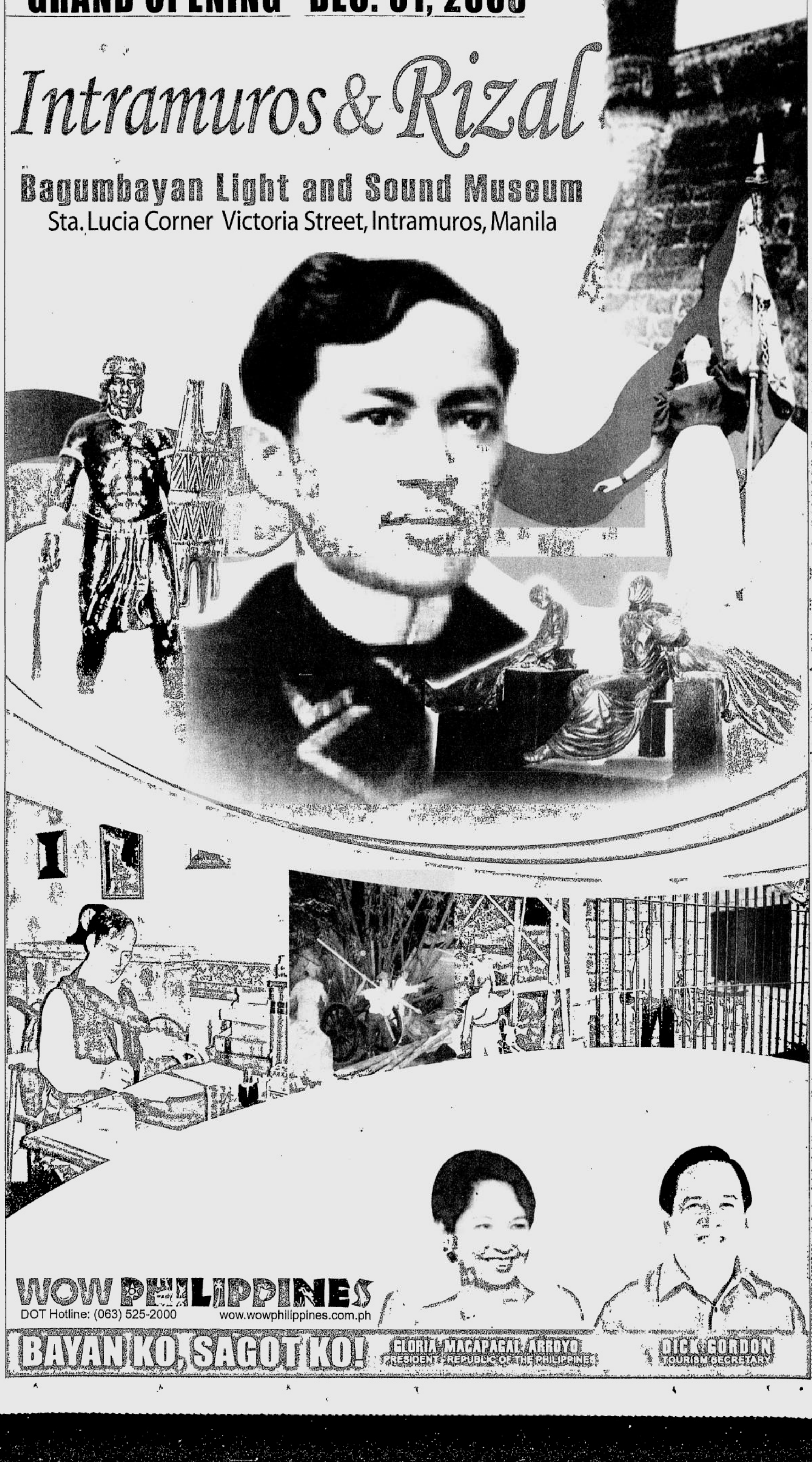

INQUIRER Mindanao

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Trying to destroy the wall of hatred

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Kidapawan City

HATRED. Distrust. Disgust.

These are just some of the words written on the wall that is virtually dividing the Muslim and Christian residents of Mindanao.

This wall is getting stronger every time armed conflicts erupt in Mindanao.

And the war in Pikit, North Cotabato and Maguindanao last February added more power to the strength that the wall holds.

For Balay, a non-government organization whose primary goal is to provide relief and rehabilitation assistance to victims of human rights violations, there is an urgent need to break the wall that divides the Muslims and Christians.

And the effort must start from the children of conflict areas whom Balay called "survivors."

Balay, which means shelter in many Philippine dialects, is an institution that offers psycho-social healing alliance with traumatized survivors of internal displacements, political detention and other human rights violations.

Joy Lascano, Balay national officer for youth and children development, said the wars in Mindanao, which started during the Spanish occupation in the country, left the people many wounds that are still unhealed.

Believing that breaking the wall between the Muslims and Christians must start from the children, Balay conducted a youth camp here last month where the children, all of them from conflict-affected areas, were given the chance to air their ideas about peace and conflict and how they can help in the search for peace in Mindanao.

The peace camp, done in two installments, was themed "Youth coming of age for peace."

Participants were from Barangays Takepan, Dalengaone and Panikupan, all in Pikit and in Layug in Maguindanao.

"We believe that war is a vicious cycle and it can't be denied that there is hatred between Muslims and Christians. And this is a good start to shatter established biases and prejudices with this group because they are the next generation," Lascano said.

Fr. Roberto Layson, inter-religious dialogue coordinator of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate Congregation, gave the participants the timeline of conflict in Mindanao which led to the day the Spaniards attempted to conquer Mindanao.

"Young Muslims and Christians, and indigenous peoples are experiencing community life together. My lecture was meant to make them understand that the conflict in Mindanao is not between religions," Layson said.

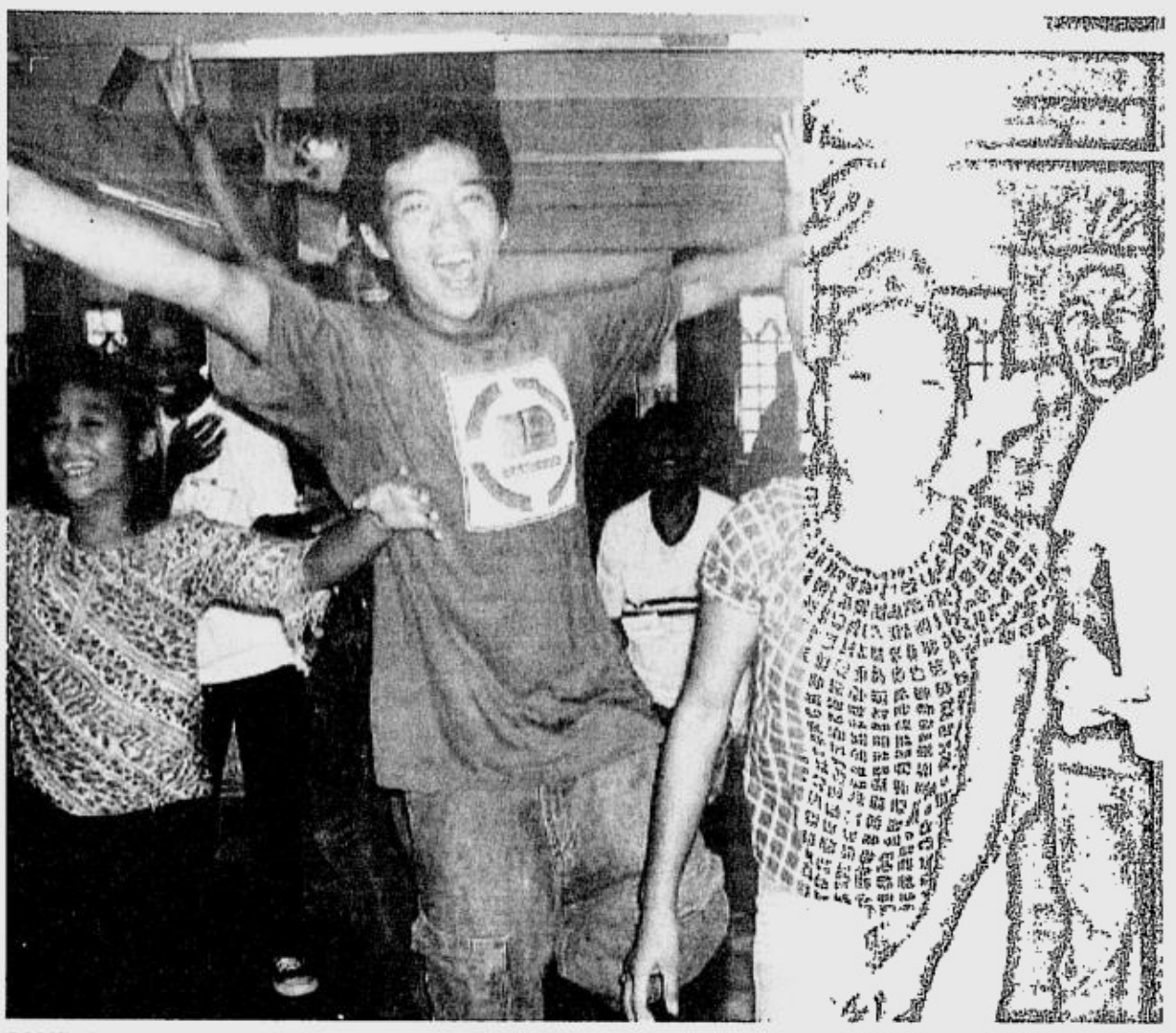
The Spaniards, Layson said, played on the people of Mindanao during their occupation which was actually the start of a chaotic relationship between them.

"*Pinagsabong-sabong nila tayo* as if we were game cocks. When we trace down the history, the children were able to understand the roots of the conflict in Mindanao ... that the conflict here was just an invention of the colonizers," Layson said.

"The same also happened during the time of the Americans and until now. The wall that divides the peoples in Mindanao is not actually a result of local rifts," Layson added.

Layson said he left the participants with a challenge: to write a history of Mindanao according to what the children realized and what they believe it should be—a history that is not dictated by the colonizers.

One of the realizations the children had, Layson said, was that the Muslim-Christian rift should end with them.



SOME of the participants in the youth camp organized by Balay. JEFFREY TUPAS

Gov't loses hold of 'halal' trademark in high court ruling

By Nash B. Maulana
Cotabato City

THE GOVERNMENT has lost its hold on the "halal" trademark, following a Supreme Court ruling that nullifies the Executive Order mandating its technical intervention on products permissible to Muslims.

• As the Oakwood mutiny story ran high, the high court silently ruled on July 30 as "null and void" President Macapagal Arroyo's Executive Order No. 46, which tasked the Office on Muslim Affairs (OMA) with issuing certification on and helping determine the authenticity of halal products to and from domestic producers and foreign markets.

Citing the doctrine of the separation of church and state, a petition by the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines (IDCP) said "only the Muslims can determine what is lawful and allowed to them by their religion and not the government."

Technical aspect

And since the Supreme Court ruling dealt entirely on the "religious aspect" of halal food and non-food preparation, OMA said the government should continue to oversee the "technical aspect" of the certification on halal products.

OMA Undersecretary Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan pointed out that the IDCP does not have the institutional capability and expertise to undertake the technical aspect of halal certification for domestic and foreign consumers.

"The subject of the dispute that is now dividing government policymakers is whether the preparation and subsequent certification of halal products should be deemed as purely religious responsibility for the Muslims alone, or should it technically constitute an added task for concerned government offices," Ampatuan said.

Export potential

Halal products preparation isn't quite parochial.

In fact, it commands strong economic potential as is evident in many exploratory trade meets and business commitments signed in a number of product-market matching sessions among trade and industry representatives of the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga).

Of the four-member nations, Brunei posts the highest export supply level of halal meat, having the most sophisticated and cleanest slaughterhouse and cold storage vessels in the region.

Brunei business groups once proposed a productive use of Maguindanao's idle lands for pasture development to sustain massive goat and cattle raising for halal meat exporting ventures to the Middle East, Europe and America.

But local raisers could hardly ensure quality breeding being the trade's domestic (growers') counterpart in what could have been a fruitful joint venture.

Halal meats are also produced in more sophisticated ways for canned corned beef in England and in mainland China.

Collaborative efforts

Ampatuan said collaborative efforts for the technical aspect of the certification were needed between the IDCP as a private civil society group and the government, particularly though the National Meat Inspections Commission of the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Food and Drugs of the Department of Health.

He cited that halal meat preparation does not deal solely on the short prayer read by the slaughterer, but more particularly on the welfare of the animal and on the aspect that benefits the consumers, like sanitation or cleanliness. "To easily do so requires the use of modern and sophisticated equipment and laboratory tests," he said.

Among other added functions, EO 46 mandated OMA to forge close working coordination with the two government agencies, and help institutionalize domestic halal production and of determining its authenticity for local and foreign markets or consumers.

Basically, pundits define halal as anything (food and non-food) that is free of prohibition by moral standards (as in one's means of living); is physically and socially beneficial when practiced, a prerequisite or constituting part of a religious belief; and something permissible, lawful, allowed or legal.

The Islamic halal tradition lays some written rules that uphold more secular concerns than religious, such as animal welfare and consumer protection, by executing humane treatment of the beasts at slaughtering and ensuring sanitation and disease prevention in the process, explained Ampatuan.

A national convention on halal food and non-food products preparation will be held on Dec. 5 at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City, the OMA said.

Sharpened blade

For animal slaughtering, it prescribes a well-sharpened blade to lessen its suffering, and just a two-minute of prayer that the life taker says to it, being the only religious aspect of the meat preparation, Ampatuan noted.

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All told, CIDG operatives seized approximately 500,000 pieces of infringing batteries. Energizer Philippines, Inc. is now preparing the necessary criminal and civil complaint-charges against the said establishments. If convicted, the parties may be subject to penalties of up to five (5) years imprisonment plus fine.

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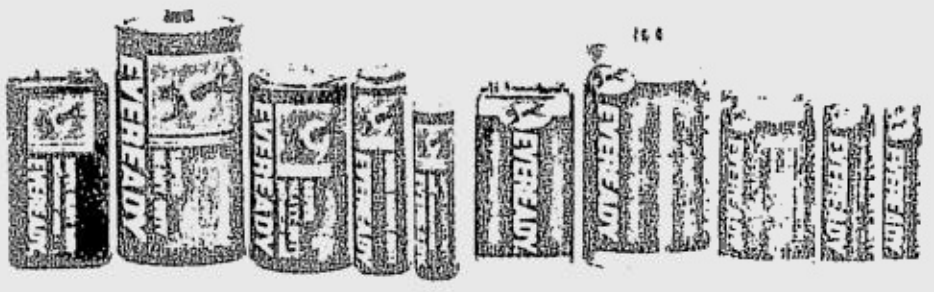

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From page A1

by presenting the candidates' platforms to the voters themselves, they would contribute in ensuring that voters cast their ballots more intelligently rather than on mere whimsy.

Like Ms Macapagal, the platforms the other presidential candidates presented were intended more to address the problems of worsening lawlessness and corruption. *(Related stories on Page A2)*

The businessmen, however, reserved their strongest applause for former Education Secretary Raul Roco's plan to eradicate corruption in his term and to Sen. Panfilo Lacson's vow to crack down on self-dealing and rising criminality.

Action star Fernando Poe Jr. did not touch on specific issues in his speech which was read for him by Sen. Vicente Sotto III. Poe begged off from personally presenting his platform as he was indisposed.

Addressing the businessmen, Roco said he is running for president in next year's elections on the "Agenda of HOPE."

HOPE, he said, stands for "Honest government; Opportunity for all and special privileges for none; Peace, productivity and prosperity; and Education and environment for sustainable development."

A former education secretary, Roco pledged to enforce the law that guarantees free education at the primary and high school levels.

Projecting himself as the solution to the worsening lawlessness in the country, Lacson yesterday vowed, if elected president, to eliminate organized crime and restore "justice, law and order" in the first 180 days of his presidency.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, Lacson disclosed his vision of government and political platform—restore justice, law and order; stop corruption through leadership by example; increase national wealth; upgrade education; institute investor-friendly and predictable economic policies; strengthen the judicial system; and a national health policy to make quality health affordable.

Poe's speech disappointed the businessmen who had wanted to hear about the popular actor's platform of government. *(See box at right.)*

Federation of the Philippines president Jesus Arranza said Poe's speech was very "revealing" because it showed how "simplistic" the actor's views and plans were.

Another businessman, who declined to be named, said the speech indicated his lackadaisical approach to the presidency and proved that the business sector had reason to fear a Poe administration.

That most businessmen fear a Poe presidency was reflected a day after the movie actor announced his presidential bid.

On Thursday, a day after the announcement, the peso plunged to a historic low of P55.85 but managed to recover later in the day to close at P55.69. The stock market likewise dropped. On Friday, the peso tumbled anew, sinking to a new record closing low of P55.73 while share prices dipped to their lowest in seven weeks.

Former Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia said credibility would be a "critical factor" in next year's elections. "They can make all the promises they want but should we believe them? Remember Estrada's "*Walang kaibigan, walang kamag-anak*" (No friends and no relatives) speech? We have a lot of laws that can address security and corruption issues. Is the next president ready to implement them?" Cuisia said.

Cuisia said experience would also matter in the elections. "Even if he is well-intentioned, or is a good man, but he doesn't have the experience, he doesn't have the capability to manage a country."

The PCCI said it would collate all the presentations and speeches at the forum and disseminate the information to all its members nationwide.

FPJ down with flu, or was it stage fright?

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

FERNANDO Poe Jr. may have lived in the spotlight almost all his life, but yesterday he appeared to have been stricken by a bad case of stage fright.

It forced him to chicken out at the last minute and forego his first public speaking engagement since he announced Wednesday that he would be in the running in the 2004 presidential election.

The no-show disappointed some of his fans who, eager to see how "Da King" would fare in the political arena, trooped to the forum sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) at the Manila Hotel.

His speech, which he supposedly wrote himself and which was read by his spokesperson, Sen. Vicente Sotto III, seemed to confirm the business community's apprehensions about him.

Sotto read Poe's speech to an audience less than half the size of the one that sat through the presentations of the other presidential contenders, former Sen. Raul Roco and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Most of the listeners appeared bored while Sotto was reading and, later, parrying the panel of businessmen's questions on Poe's qualifications, the economy, and peace and order.

PCCI officials said Poe had confirmed his attendance at the forum. But at lunchtime he reportedly sent word that he had come down with the flu, which made his soft voice even more inaudible.

The organizers agreed to let Sotto read Poe's speech and answer questions from the panel.

NO-SHOW: "Da King" disappointed fans when he didn't show up for his first public speaking engagement. ROGER MARGALLO

Sotto told PCCI officials of Poe's offer to treat them out to dinner to make up for his absence.

Simple plan

The PCCI members' response was to laugh.

In his speech, Poe claimed that he was still "fine-tuning" his general plans and programs based on consultations with various sectors.

He said he had only a simple goal and a simple plan for the country: to help uplift the nation and run the government in extensive consultation and in tight cooperation with all sectors of society.

"I believe that a nation cannot be run by just one man but can be led by one," he said, adding: "I need you to tell me, the Filipino, who I'm here to serve, what can I do for you? I need the business sector to tell me how we can improve and strengthen the business climate of the Philippines. I need the political sector to tell me how we can make the rules of governance work for the people. I need labor to tell me what needs they have. I need the Armed Forces and the police to tell me what our country needs to preserve peace and order in our ranks and in our streets. I need our foreign friends to tell me how we, as a Filipino nation, can be worthy allies of world peace and prosperity."

TEAM

Poe promised to put into action whatever he learned from his consultations.

"But I cannot do this alone; the government cannot do this alone," he said. "We must be a TEAM—Together Each Achieves More."

His formula for economic development appeared to be this: Meeting the basic needs of the Filipino leads to peace and order, which then results in higher foreign investments.

"Together, we can make all good things happen," he said. "As I always tell my movie crew and staff, as we put together all the essential components that make a blockbuster, 'It is not what I like but what is right.'"

Sotto said Poe's lack of political experience and his show biz roots were assets rather than liabilities for a president.

He said that as a political greenhorn, Poe would be more open to advice than other jaded politicians such as ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Sotto also said that show business was also a business, and that Poe excelled in managing his film outfit through the crisis years when a number of big studios went belly-up.

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3 free schools for Marikina poor

By Luige del Puerto

NORMAN Subido's day job as a barangay kagawad (community councilor) earns him P8,000.

With the money he earns—coupled with a lot of love, patience and the occasional donation—he gets to run three daycare centers for poor preschool children in Marikina City.

For four years, Subido, 36, has been teaching preschoolers for free—he does not collect tuition and other fees.

Subido, a bachelor and the head of the barangay's education committee, does not get a-centavo for what he does.

In fact, he has to dig into his own pocket to keep the schools running.

His parents help out by paying for the electricity.

MARIKINA Councilor Norman Subido, erstwhile preschool teacher and daycare center operator, is at home teaching the children of poor families for free. PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

A house unlike any other

In Subido's house at 15 Russet Street, SSS Village, Concepcion Dos, Marikina, there are small chairs and tables, colorful ABC charts, a blackboard and photocopies of reading materials.

Every morning from Monday to Thursday, children aged 3 to 6 in pink and blue uniforms form a neat line in front of his house.

Children who come in before their scheduled classes get to wait with their parents under the shade of Banaba trees in front of the house.

Subido, a computer science graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, said the kids inspire him to carry on with the program.

In the Top 10

"Some of my former students are now among the 'top 10' in private and public schools," he said. "I'm so proud of what they have achieved. These kids inspire me to go on."

Subido's mother Soledad, 60, said that she is very proud that he has given so much to help other people.

But the pride gave way to longing, when she confided that her son barely has time for himself.

No time to look for a mate

"He doesn't even have time to find a wife," she said. "He wakes up at 6 a.m. to prepare for the day. His classes starts at 8 in the morning and ends at 8 at night. After that, it's the church and the barangay."

Subido started the project shortly after a typhoon hit the country in September 1999.

During a relief operation, he chanced upon poor kids in a depressed area and realized how they were deprived of so many things—especially access to basic education.

A few days later, Subido began teaching around 50 kids in a vacant lot on Panganiban Street.

By 2000, the councilor opened two more schools—one in a chapel at Sapa corner Olive streets and another in a vacant lot on Tamengo Street.

Graduation rites are held at the grounds of the larger SSS Village Elementary School.

As the enrollment swelled, Subido sought permission from his parents to open another school right inside their house.

When they said yes, he turned their garage into a classroom.

Parents of children that go to his school have reported considerable improvement in the writing and reading abilities of their kids.

100 students

"My four-year-old son, Gerald, can already write his name and read the alphabet," said Gina Derain, 36.

The boy started schooling last June.

"We can't afford a preschool education for our child," said Nova Katakutan, who has a four-year-old son in Subido's class. "We really have the councilor to thank for."

To date, the Free Day Care Learning Center Project has 100 students, aged three and above, majority of whom come from poor families.

Far from ideal

Subido maintains three schools—his home, the Katipunan House and the Panganiban House—which the Department of Social Welfare and Development has recognized.

But the condition of the schools are far from ideal. The roofs leak when it rains, and the classrooms get unbearably hot when the sun goes up.

Donations are not steady. Subido's Christmas wish is that the students—especially those in the depressed areas—could have gifts to exchange with when they hold a Christmas party some time next month.

"If you have something to spare, we would appreciate it very much," Subido said.

SUBIDO and his wards outside his house that doubles as a school.

2 PDEA men in shooting of NBI agent surrender

By Leila Salaverria and Luige del Puerto

TWO AGENTS of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency who admitted shooting a National Bureau of Investigation agent in Marikina on Monday have surrendered to the police.

The two—P03 Sherwin Bulan and P03 Norman Jesus—surrendered to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

They admitted in a report that they shot NBI rookie agent Marvin Matamis, a member of the bureau's Intelligence Special Operations Division.

PDEA director Anselmo Avenido notified the NBI about the surrender.

Matamis sustained several gunshot wounds on the body but is now out of danger and is recuperating in an undisclosed hospital. He will be made to verify if the two suspects were indeed the ones who shot him.

According to an investigator privy to the case, the PDEA agents claimed they were forced to shoot Matamis because the NBI agent had tried to grab their guns. The suspects added that only the two of them were involved in the shooting incident.

However, some witnesses claimed that up to five people were involved in the shooting incident.

That Monday night, four men claiming to be PDEA agents shot and wounded Matamis on Tambuli Street, Midtown Subdivision, Barangay San Roque, Marikina.

Matamis had alighted from an FX van to complain to a Metro Manila Development Authority enforcer that the FX driver had badmouthed him.

While on the way to an MMDA outpost, the suspects stopped them. An argument ensued followed by several shots.

The police said the suspects appeared drunk. They had come from a nearby pub where they had ordered beer and some food.

However, witnesses told NBI agents that there were five PDEA agents at the scene of the shooting. Three of them confronted Matamis, while the two others stayed in a white Toyota Revo (XFK-604).

KRISHNA Luciano

He needs help

ONE-YEAR-OLD Krishna Luciano has Carolis Disease, a rare condition where the bile ducts of the liver are unable to conduct bile out of the organ. As a result, the boy's liver is slowly dying. The boy needs a liver transplant abroad. Cost of the operation is P3 million.

His parents, Jerson and Rofemia, are appealing to kind-hearted readers for help.

Donations may be sent to UCPB account under the name Jerson Luciano ITF Krishna Luciano, (Account No. 1371-2527-30) UCPB Casimiro Branch, Las Piñas, or BPI account under Jerson Luciano ITF Krishna Luciano, (Account no. 6393-3553-34) BPI Pacita, Laguna branch. Land-line number is (632) 869-8325; cell phone: (0919) 260-7630. You may also call Dr. Germana V. Gregorio at (02) 523-1426.

Rallies, traffic rerouting mark Bonifacio day

By Tina Santos and Martin P. Marfil

PROTEST rallies to be staged by workers and the urban poor will mark today's observance of the 140th birthday of the Great Plebian, Andres Bonifacio.

The center of activities will be in Caloocan City, where the controversial "Historical Walk" will also be inaugurated by Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo.

The three-meter wide "Historical Walk" is located right in the middle of Edsa, some 100 meters away from the base of the 73-year-old Bonifacio Monument in Caloocan City.

Traffic officials have also drawn up a re-routing scheme to avoid massive congestion in the area during the celebration which starts at 3 p.m.

The program in Caloocan, which will be attended by city officials, city hall employees, students and non-government organizations, will be preceded by a military-civic parade.

Fireworks display and a dragon dance courtesy of the local Chinese community will also be featured during the celebration.

Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., Tourism NCR director Reynato Chua representing Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and NHI director Ludovico Badoy will be the guests of honor.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona will participate at the Liwasang Bonifacio event which will feature an ecumenical mass, wreath-laying and a cultural program.

The same forum will be attended by about 5,000 members of the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan and the Kilusang Mayo Uno.

From Liwasan, the militant groups will proceed to Mendiola near Malacañang to continue their protest action.

Another group of workers, this time led by Partido ng Manggagawa and its allied groups, will march from España to Malacañang. PM Rep. Renato Magtubo will lead the rally.

Aside from Metro Manila, the militants said other rallies will be held in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Iloilo, Iligan, General Santos City and parts of the Visayas region.

BuCor officials, Las Piñas cops avert clash over demolition

A LONG-STANDING land dispute between the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) in Muntinlupa City and the Las Piñas City government has led to the controversial demolition of around 24 houses standing on BuCor property to give way to a road widening project of the city.

According to BuCor Supt. Francisco Abunales, the demolition team comprised of members of the Las Piñas police and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) last Thursday could not show BuCor officials any court order or document legitimizing their operation.

Abunales said without warning, the wrecking crew came at around 10 a.m. and "flatly demolished" all the government quarters in Camp Sampaguita that were owned by BuCor personnel and their relatives.

"It was a swift action and everybody was caught unaware," Abunales said in a memorandum to BuCor chief Dionisio Santiago.

He also stressed that the team did not properly coordinate with the BuCor administration.

"Our office was informed by the affected employees only after their houses were demolished," Abunales said, adding that the team did not even ask BuCor officials to inform their own personnel about the impending demolition.

During an interview, Abunales told the INQUIRER that the land on which the houses were built belonged to BuCor.

The incident prompted the BuCor officials and personnel led by Abunales to stand guard at the site the whole day last Friday.

Senior Supt. Armando Pineda, Las Piñas police chief, however maintained that the land was part of Las Piñas and not Muntinlupa.

"BuCor and Department of Public Works and Highways engineers defined the boundary of Muntinlupa and Las Piñas long ago," Pineda told the INQUIRER over the phone.

Pineda said that the BuCor employees and some civilians disregarded the marker which defined the boundary when they began building their "shanties" on the site.

Pineda added that they had to demolish the houses with the help of the MMDA to give way to a road project which would connect the cities of Las Piñas and Muntinlupa to Cavite.

The police chief said the government has succeeded in paying and convincing the owners of nine of the 24 demolished houses to relocate.

He said that the other remaining residents have refused to budge and, instead, are each asking P1 million.

"We had to do what's right for everyone," Pineda said, adding that the road project's deadline is on Dec. 13.

Pineda, however, admitted that they were not able to coordinate with the BuCor administration.

"I've already apologized to Gen. Santiago for the oversight," Pineda said. *Penny Quiton, Tomnie Susa, Beverly Torralba and Margaux Ortiz*

Ban sounds death toll for Pasay Road bars

By Margaux Ortiz

NOT EVERYBODY is happy about the implementation of the smoking ban in Makati City.

Owners and personnel of restaurants and bars on Pasay Road are complaining that they have been losing business because customers who used to frequent their establishments now go to other cities where there is no ban on smoking.

Roland de Guzman, operations manager of Peps bar and restaurant on Pasay Road, said that when they opened Peps in October last year, the place was a hit. People flocked to the spacious bar and restaurant to listen to live bands and have a good time, according to De Guzman.

Luck changed

"We were filled up even during weekdays ... on lean days, (Peps) would still be half full," De Guzman said in Filipino.

But all that changed when the city government implemented the no smoking ordinance last July, De Guzman said.

"Suddenly our luck changed, people stopped going to our bar the moment we informed them they could not smoke inside," he said.

De Guzman said they consequently had to cut down on operations—they soon stopped hiring bands to save on costs.

Bad for business

Peps closed down this month—a year after it opened.

De Guzman said Peps was not the only bar and restaurant affected by the city's no smoking ordinance.

A stark example is Cable Car, which once attracted even more customers than Peps did, De Guzman said.

Thomas Welch, Cable Car's consultant, said that since the ban was implemented, the establishment lost almost half of their regular customers, "on top of the normal downturn of business because of the country's flailing economy."

Poorly timed

"We don't know how long we could stay in business," Welch said.

Cable Car used to operate 24 hours a day. But Welch said that they had to cut down on losses, so they changed their operations schedule. They are now open from 4 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Welch stressed that the smoking ban was poorly timed because of the volatile economy. He also thought it was poorly worked out because some establishments have a "natural advantage over the others."

Restaurants and bars in Greenbelt, for example, have plenty of space outside, where people can go if they want to smoke, Welch said.

Risk of closure

"We also think that the ban is not equally enforced ... in Makati," Welch said. "People would of course turn to Mandaluyong, Quezon City and Manila, where they have more freedom."

Cecilia Montesinas, caretaker of Reason's Jazz Bar just beside Peps, said they had to close down the bar last September because "business was so bad."

"We were already doing poorly prior to the (ban), and when it was implemented, we just could not keep up with the operation costs anymore," Montesinas said.

PASAY Road is now but a shadow of itself. One by one, the bars are closing down, like Peps (shown above) beside Cable Car, all on account of a Makati City measure. RUDY ESPERAS

Ricky Bautista, Cable Car's maintenance man, said it would spell quite a difference if Makati officials were to allow smokers to occupy half the space allotted for them in restaurants and bars.

Under the ordinance, restaurants are required to construct separate enclosures for smokers. Designated smoking areas in restaurants should be 15 percent of the total dining area, while bars could have 25 percent.

Establishments that refuse to comply run the risk of closure.

De Guzman felt sad for those who worked at Peps.

"I pity my co-workers because they will be jobless and depressed this Christmas," he said.

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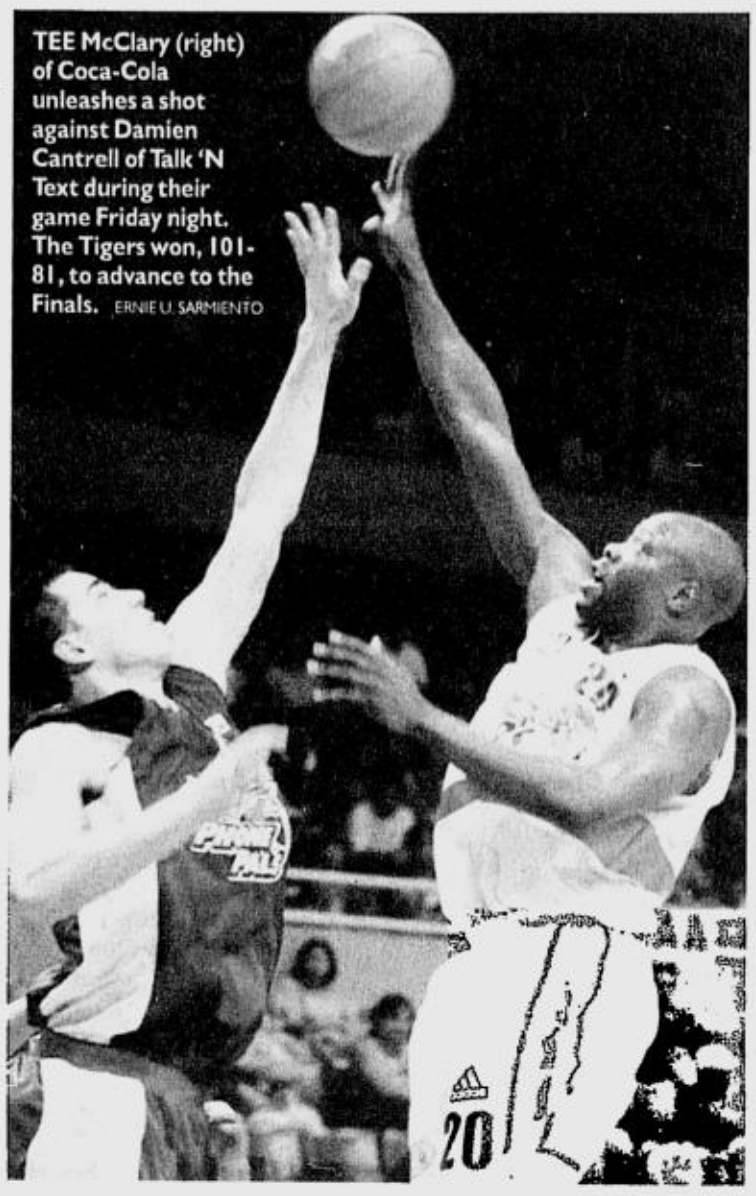
Schedule subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat



TEE McClary (right) of Coca-Cola unleashes a shot against Damien Cantrell of Talk 'N Text during their game Friday night. The Tigers won, 101-81, to advance to the Finals. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

BEST-OF-SEVEN AFFAIR

San Mig-Coke series on

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Sta. Lucia Realty (battle for third)
6:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Coca-Cola (Game 1, Finals)

By June Navarro

WITH little time to prepare, San Miguel Beer and Coca-Cola will rely on sheer talent and reserve energy when they plunge into the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference Finals today at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen and the Tigers applied the broom on their semifinal opponents last Friday, setting up a best-of-seven championship showdown beginning with Game 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Although the Beermen clobbered the Sta. Lucia Realtors and the Tigers beat the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals with relative ease on Friday, both teams feel exhausted and would need to rejuvenate their tired muscles.

"I hope we could summon the energy that we need against San Miguel Beer. As I've said, we're a very tired team. We've been battling in the Finals since last season," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

Reyes and the Tigers are on a fourth straight championship appearance dating back to the All Filipino Cup last season when Coca-Cola captured its first PBA crown on its rookie year.

The Tigers, however, weren't as lucky as last year. They failed to defend the All Filipino plum against the Phone Pals and lost to the Alaska Aces in the Finals of the Invitationals this season.

But with the addition of Tee McClary, Reyes hopes the Tigers could take home the bacon this time. Reyes noted that Poch Juinio, Jeffrey Cariaso, Ato Morano, Johnny Abarrientos, Rudy Hatfield and Rafi Reavis are blending perfectly with McClary.

The Tigers will be pitted against a San Miguel Beer squad, which has had a share of great moments and frustrations in the last five seasons.

San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico has steered the Beermen to a string of five titles beginning in 1999, depending highly on old-reliables Danny Ildefonso, Boybits Victoria, Olsen Racela and Danny Seigle.

Angola rips Nat'ls

GAMES TODAY (*San Juan gym*)
2 p.m.—Fash Liquid vs Sunkist-UST
4 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Welcoat

ANGOLA ripped the Philippine team, 90-78, on a day Sunkist-UST's Alex Compton reaffirmed his status as the league's deadliest shooter in the Showcase of the PBL Platinum Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

It was the RP cagers' first defeat in four exhibition matches.

ANGOLA/ A28

No pep rally for RP bets

WHY is there no pep rally for athletes this time?

This was the question posed by no less than the Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday after the athletes bound for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games started leaving without the usual fanfare.

POC first vice president Steve Hontiveros, who is also the chief of the SEAG technical commission that picked the athletes going there, said no send-off was organized this year unlike in previous international meets.

Hontiveros said it was the responsibility of the Philippine Sports Commission to arrange for such an event that is hoped to boost the morale of the 449 athletes. *M. Reyes*

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RP OPEN

Mika nips Bata for 9-ball plum

By Dennis U. Eroa

MIKA Immonen, a crowd darling with his good looks and gentlemanly ways, posted a stirring 13-12 come-from-behind win over Filipino hero Efren "Bata" Reyes to rule the 1st Cafe Puro Philippine 9-ball Open at the Octagon Hall of the Robinson's Galleria.

Immonen, winner of the 2001 Cardiff World Open, trailed 6-10, but came back in style to dash the hopes of the well-loved Reyes. The Finnish ace also frustrated the Philippine challenge as he ousted Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 11-8, in the semifinals.

Though behind by four, Immonen never lost his composure, tying the pulsating match 12-12.

Greeted with thunderous applause, Reyes broke in the 23rd and deciding rack and after several safeties, found a good shot for the three ball in the corner pocket.

Reyes uncharacteristically missed and Immonen proceeded to clean up and deal the Filipino one of his most painful defeats.

Immonen won his second major title in the Philippines, which he now calls his second home. He downed German-pride Ralf Souquet in the finals of the Studio 23 On Cue 1 early this year.

The Finn pocketed $20,000 of the $64,000 purse put up by sponsor Cafe' Puro in this four-day gathering of the world's leading pool sharks. The tournament was also made possible by the partnership between ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and Puyat Sports.

Reyes, who ousted compatriot Leonardo "Dodong" Andam, 11-17, in the semis, earned $10,000. Andam and Bustamante earned $5,000 each.

Earlier, Reyes was elevated to the Hall of Fame of the Billiards Congress of America.

Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, president of Puyat Sports and Peter Musngi, vice president of ABS-CBN Sports, graced the awarding ceremonies.

Surprisingly, Reyes surrendered his four frames to Andam in this alternate break format and trailed 3-6. Andam, however, failed to keep his nerves in the successive racks.

As Reyes watched intently, Andam, who learned playing as a teenager in General Santos City, missed an easy shot on the 6th ball in the 10th rack, giving Reyes the needed opening.

REYES: Tested to the hilt by Andam PDI PHOTO

Puyat sees gold rush in billiards

By Roy Luarca

PUYAT

IT'S rather weird, but Putch Puyat, regarded as the godfather of Philippine billiards, doesn't want to predict how many gold medals the Philippine team would win in the coming Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

What he's certain is that the cue artists' contribution to the national cause would be substantial.

Even with his wards—the legendary Efren "Bata" Reyes and the renowned Francisco "Django" Bustamante—around, Puyat couldn't visualize the gold hoard for the simple reason that Puyat Sports, which has been bankrolling the international sojourns of Reyes and Bustamante, has no say on how their innate talents could best be utilized in the pool events set in Ho Chi Minh City.

That privilege is left to the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines, the local ruling body.

All Puyat, also the president of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners, could do is hope that Reyes and Busta-

PUYAT/A29

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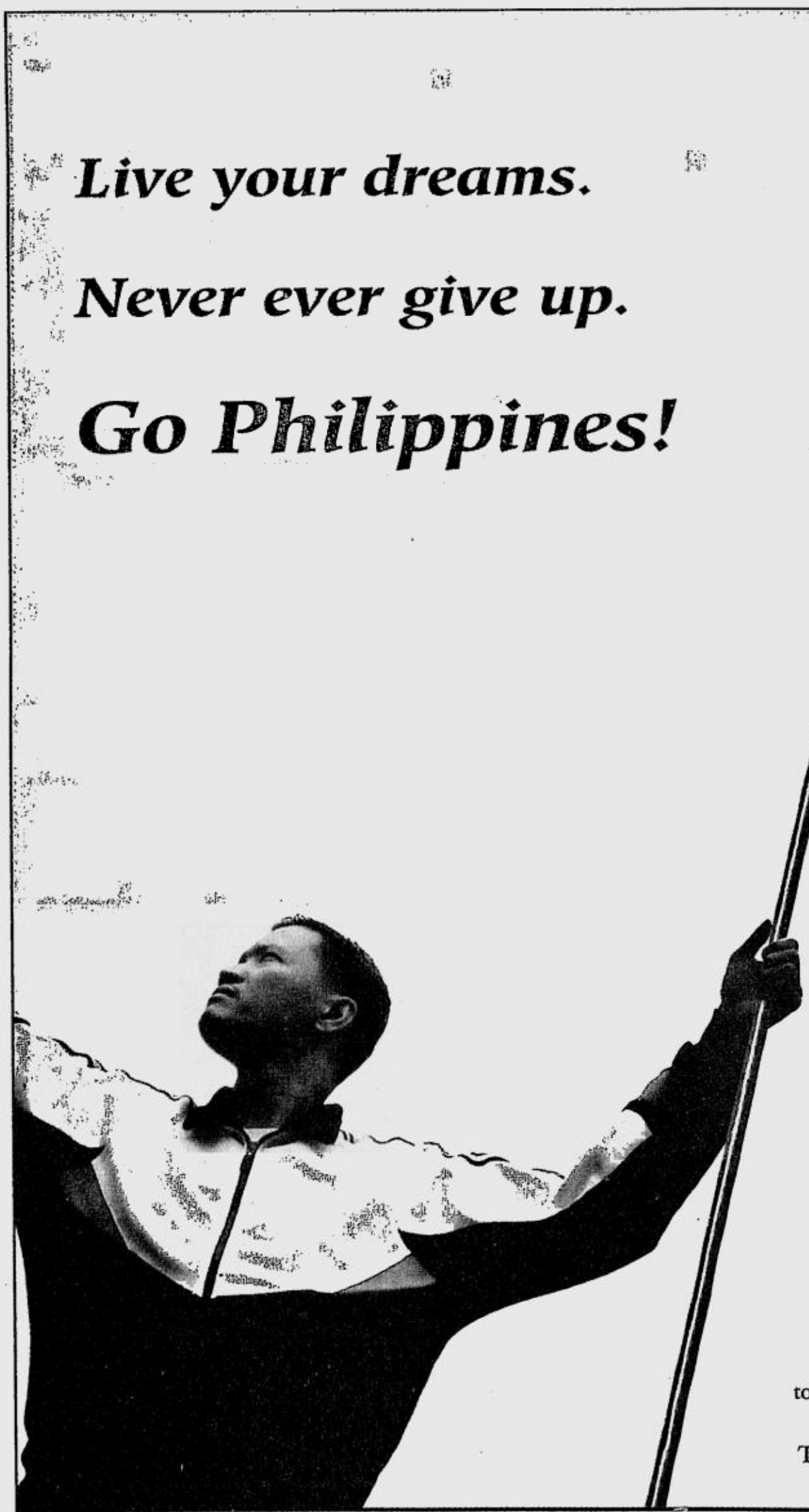

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DOT fetes Pacquiao

BOXING champion Manny Pacquiao will get another honor when the First Sports Tourism and Travel Adventure show brings down its curtains in colorful ceremonies today at the Clamshell 2 in Intramuros.

Department of Tourism Sec. Richard Gordon will hand over a special prize to the country's sports hero in the 4:30 p.m. affair for placing the Philippines in the world map with his recent ring exploits.

Pacquiao's reward will be a "dream vacation showcase" for himself and his family, which Sports Tourism director Cynthia Carrion said "will be an experience they will never forget."

"Pacquiao's was the triumph of all Filipinos. His feat is a big boost to our tourism industry," added the head of the Philippine Convention and Travel Corp., the DOT's marketing arm, which set up the trade fair.

Serving as the appetizer to the event is a Celebrity Billiards match at 4 p.m. pitting Pacquiao against another world-class athlete in Efren "Bata" Reyes, and Secretary Gordon.

Also elected to be on hand to grace the occasion is Local Governments Sec. Joey Lina, Senator-sportsman Robert Jaworski, Rep. Imee Marcos-Manotoc and Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit.

The Manila Sports Council headed by Ali Atienza is hosting a sports celebrities and fans gathering from 2-4 p.m. serving as a prelude to the closing ceremonies.

ASIAN SOFTBALL

Blu Boys clobber Iranians

GAMES TODAY (*Rizal Ballpark*)
9 a.m.—RP vs India
11 a.m.—Japan vs Indonesia
1 p.m.—Chinese Taipei vs Iran
3 p.m.—Hong Kong vs Thailand

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE RP Blu Boys scored an abbreviated 7-0 victory over Iran yesterday for a smashing debut in the 7th Asian men's softball championship at the Rizal Memorial ballpark.

Taking advantage of the Iranians' slow pitches, Mark Rae Ramirez highlighted the lopsided win by slamming a two-run homer in the bottom of the third that also scored Apolonio Rosales.

Two innings later, Ramirez again scored the game-clinching run off a throwing error for the country's seventh run that shortened the game to just five innings due to the new set of mercy rules imposed by the world governing body of softball.

But Blu Boys' coach Reynaldo Manzanares wasn't content with what he saw, saying his wards could have finished the game in the third inning where, according to the new rules, a game is won by the team which leads by 15 runs after the third.

"I think we were very surprised because we know Iran is just starting to play the game but we didn't expect them to play that bad," said Manzanares in Filipino.

The Iranians, who flew here to gain experience and gain a foothold in softball in the Middle East, relied on just one pitcher in burly Madjid Sattari.

"When I saw the pitcher, I knew we'll win," said Manzanares.

Sattari kept on launching slow balls, practically serving it to the eager Filipino batters who are gunning to avenge the defeat they suffered from the Japanese when the meet was last held here in 1997.

In contrast, the Blu Boys paraded their finest set of pitchers in Roger Rojas, Luis Dela Cruz and Florante Acuna.

Rojas, the best pitcher in the team, only threw 10 pitches, all of them in the first inning, before Manzanares fielded in the other pitchers, who didn't allow a single hit.

Earlier, Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei defeated Indonesia and India, respectively, to post their first victories in the six-nation tourney.

Defending champion Japan also took the short cut in disposing of Thailand, 10-0, in the fourth inning later in the night.

The Japanese posted a 4-0 lead in the first inning to set the tone for the rout.

FILIPINO Rizel Santos (35) reaches first base as Iranian catcher Mehran Sadeghmovahed drops the ball. JESS YUSON

54th Fil-Am golfest gets under way tomorrow

BAGUIO City hosts more than a thousand golfers coming from various parts of the country and the world for the 54th edition of the Fil-Am Golf Invitational beginning tomorrow.

The lodging units of the Baguio Country Club and the Manor of the Camp John Hay Golf Club, as well as the big hotels, are all fully booked due to the big number of entries spread out into 147 teams of five players each excluding team officials and even their families.

The big golf party in Baguio explodes two days from now with 74 teams competing in the Fil division and another 73 squads shooting it out for the Am division titles. Each division is made up of the Championship, A, B, C, D, E and F classes.

The hitting of ceremonial tee-shots yesterday ushered in the six-day competition backed by Smart Communications Inc. as presenter and Northwest Airlines and Royal Caribbean International as major sponsors.

Doing the honors were Baguio City Rep. Mauricio Domogan, City Mayor Bernardo Vergara, Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas, BCC president Federico Agcaoili, CJH chairman Robert Sobrepeña, Royal Caribbean International's Alex Yaptinchay and Anastacio "Boy" Martirez of Smart Communications Inc.

Jong Arcano

Seniors' tourney slated Dec. 10

THE FEDERATION of Golf Clubs Phils. Inc. will stage the Senior Care Fellowship Golf Classic on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

A total of 144 members of the Federation's Senior Care Program will be disputing the low net and low gross titles as well as the top three places in four handicap divisions and the ladies category.

Interested parties may call 840-3951 or 830-2222. Look for Pie.

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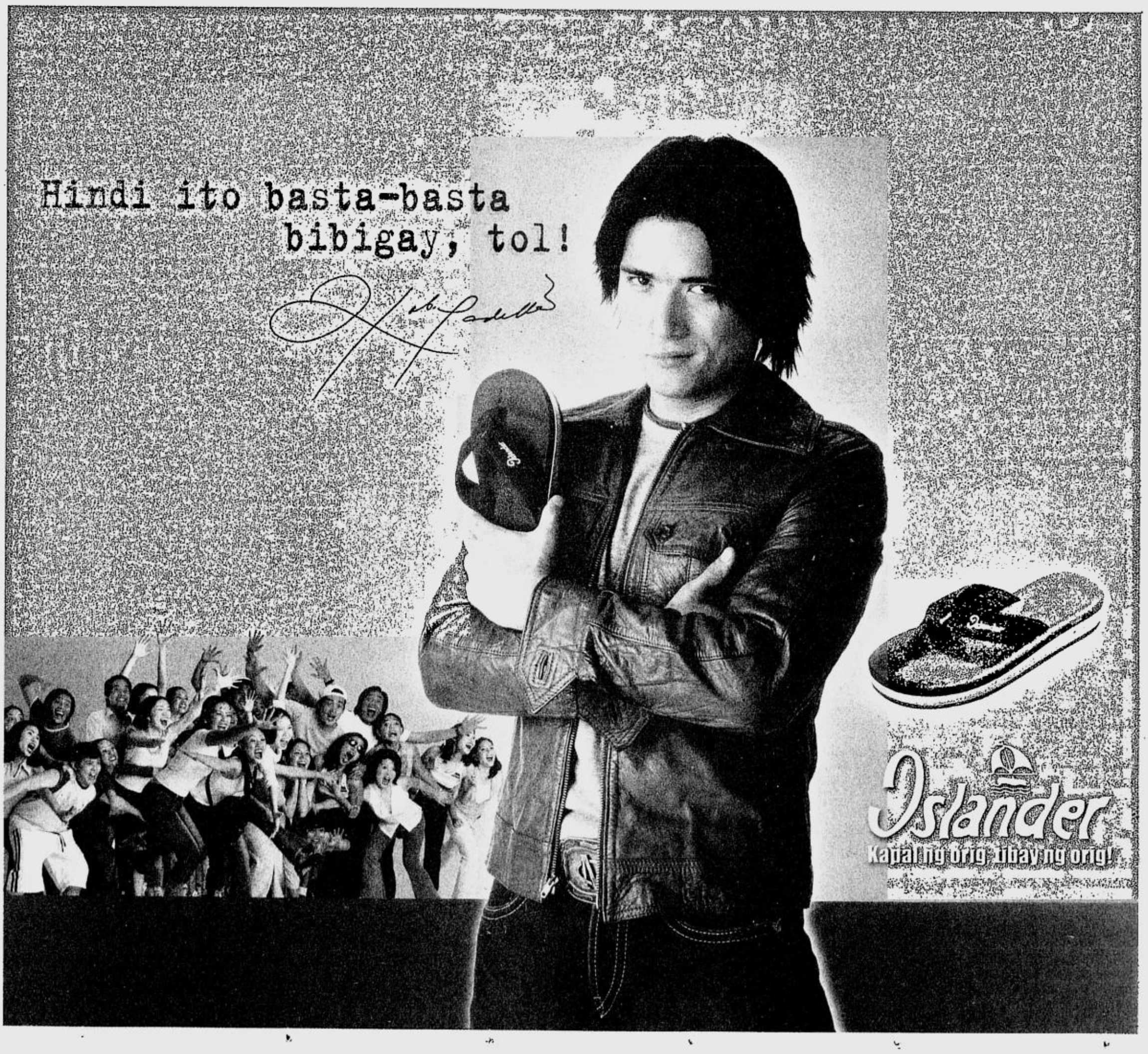


SPORTSWATCH

THREE of the 15 foreign participants to the annual "Cavite 7-Cock International Derby," set for Dec. 1, 3 and 5 at the Cavite Coliseum, sparred their fighters yesterday during their visit to Sen. Ramon Revilla's gamefarm. With Senator Revilla (2nd from left) are Rep. Benjamin Sablan of Saipan and Alabama breeders Brian Coskren and Kris Chappell, the USA Cocker of the Year winners for 2001 and 2002 in Hickory Recreation Club in Louisiana.

Antonio reigns supreme in 'Bakbakan'

PATRICK "Idol" Antonio posted 18 consecutive victories to emerge as champion in the hotly-contested "National Bakbakan 8-Stag derby Championship" (374 entries) recently at the Araneta Coliseum. Antonio bagged the coveted title after Sagupaan BPZ Complexor 3000 posted a clean 8-0 (win-loss slate) and could have been a double champion, but his other popular entry, Sagupaan Mite Free, lost it's last fight to emerge runner-up with seven points. The Sagupaan BPZ Complexor 3000 entry utilized a combination of Boy Primallion's amazing Zamboanga Stags and Antonio's Sagupaan Lemon Sweaters. These Stags were conditioned and prepared by the Sagupaan Team using the proven and effective Winning Line Complexor 3000. Antonio, four-time Cocker of the Year awardee, admitted that the event is the toughest to conquer when it comes to stag derbies.

Perry paces Nedbank Challenge

SUN CITY, South Africa—Kenny Perry kept the ball on the fairways better than most to take a one-shot lead after the second round Friday in the Nedbank Golf Challenge over the 7,769-yard par 72 course at the Gary Player Country Club. The American hit 92 percent of the fairways in his 68 to reach halfway in 11-under-par 133, one ahead of a charging Sergio Garcia of Spain, who shot the day's best round with a 66. Garcia shot a brilliant 31 on the back nine, starting with an eagle on the par-five 10th, to play himself into contention in a tournament he won in 2001 in a playoff against Ernie Els. The three-time champion Els shot a 75 to finish last at halfway, 14 shots off the pace. *AP*

Honor for kung fu legend

CHIUTEN

IN HIS many years as premier teacher of martial arts, Johnny F. Chiuten has taught thousands of students. He has also volunteered his services to many civic endeavors, imparting self-defense skills, health, as well as the ethical philosophy that is the foundation of the Oriental martial arts. To honor him, the Wico Chapter of the UP Beta Sigma Fraternity will hold a weeklong celebration capped by a testimonial dinner at the Bonifacio Hall of Solair, UP Diliman, on Dec. 6. The inauguration of The Johnny F. Chiuten School of Martial Arts Inc. will be announced during the program. Chiuten, who learned the basics of kung fu from a grandfather in China, mastered various Oriental fighting styles. He won the highest grades in karate and aikido and became heir-apparent to kung fu master Lao Kim of the famous Hong Sing school. Chiuten, former president of the Karate Association of the Philippines, began teaching in the early 1960s. In the 1970s, Chiuten apprenticed to the arnis and escrima masters of Cebu and quickly established himself as practitioner and teacher. A five-day training seminar conducted by Chiuten and selected instructors begins on Dec. 5 in Antipolo. TheJohnny Chiuten tribute night will be hosted by Willie Nepomuceno. Testimonials will be offered by colleagues, students and friends including UP president Nemenzo, past UP president Jose Abueva, Sec. Silvestre Afable, Mat Defensor, Boy Morales and Shakespeare Chan.

Fistorama at Cantada Sports Center

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features two action-packed bouts in the light flyweight division. Aristotle Cedo faces Greg Taon-on for four rounds in the super-featherweight division. Rodolfo Anhao battles Noel Bading for six rounds in the light-flyweight division. The fights were held recently at the state-of-the-art Joe Cantada Boxing Arena in Bicutan, Taguig. The show, now on its second year, is aired at 2 p.m., Sundays on RPN 9 and is backed by Samsung Electronics Corp., Golf Power follows the boxing favorite at 3 p.m.

WGAP CUP CHAMPS

MEMBERS of the Sta. Elena team led by team captain Rio Co present the WGAP Cup trophy to club president Edward Tiu after winning the recent course-hopping finale. The Sta. Elena ladies beat circuit topnotcher Alabang, Wack Wack and Villamor in the three-week showdown played at the Country Club, Orchard and Manila Golf.

CHAMPION SQUAD

Philippine Badminton Association president and former First Lady Amelita Ramos (standing fourth from left) joins the members of champion team PLDT in the first Nesvita Badminton Tournament Executive Cup at the Powersmash Badminton Center. Also shown are former PSC commissioner and Sydney Olympian Weena Lim and Nestlé Philippines officials Lynn Gonzaga and Robby Afzelius.

Aussie Cuppers up

Woodbridge, pals shine in doubles

MELBOURNE, Australia—Todd Woodbridge and Wayne Arthurs gave Australia a 2-1 lead in the Davis Cup tennis final Saturday, beating Spain's Feliciano Lopez and Alex Corretja, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3, in doubles.

The title will be decided on Sunday when Mark Philippoussis takes on Juan Carlos Ferrero in the first reverse singles, followed by Lleyton Hewitt's match with Carlos Moya.

Hewitt gave Australia a 1-0 lead with a five-set win Friday over Ferrero while Moya beat Philippoussis in four sets to level the final after the first day.

Arthurs and Woodbridge, playing in their sixth Davis Cup match, broke veteran Corretja's serve fourth game of the opening set to go up 3-1. Lopez, playing in his first Davis Cup match, had only played one previous doubles match with Corretja.

The Australian pair broke Corretja again in the third game of the second set. At the end of the set, Corretja took an injury timeout to have a sore shoulder worked on by medical officials, but it only delayed the inevitable as Australia took the match easily in just over 80 minutes.

Woodbridge's appearance set a record for matches in the nation's 84-year Davis Cup history. It was Woodbridge's 29th Davis Cup event for Australia, breaking the mark of 28 set by Adrian Quist between 1933 and 1939.

Woodbridge began his Davis Cup career in 1991 for Australia and has a won-loss record of 26-10—23-6 in doubles and 3-4 in singles.

"I was calm and really focused, and I had a lot of confidence in Wayne," Woodbridge said of Saturday's match.

This year, Woodbridge won his 78th doubles title on the ATP tour, equaling Tom Okker of the Netherlands for most career doubles titles since the start of the Open Era in 1968.

On Saturday, officials at Rod Laver Arena played the correct Spanish national anthem, a day after they played an outdated one that had Spanish officials fuming. *AP*

WOODBRIDGE (left) and Arthurs celebrate. AFP

Primero tops opening leg

By June Navarro

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Albert Primero exploited the absence of the battle-grizzled national riders to conquer the massed start phase of the 1st Air21 Puerto Princesa Cycling Challenge yesterday.

The PLDT-NDD team captain in the Tour Pilipinas last summer familiarized the 160-kilometer out-and-back course on the way out and rode strategically on the way back to dominate the first leg of the two-day race.

Primero finished the course after four hours, one minute and 17.87 seconds, just five seconds ahead of Patrol 117 skipper Bernard Luzon. Nilo Estayo wound up third with a clocking of 4:06:29.44.

The riders, without race favorites Arnel Quirimit, Merculio Ramos, Rhyan Tanguilig and the rest of the national squad who went to compete in the Vietnam SEA Games this week, will fight for the P40,000 champion's purse in the 120km circuit race today within the city.

Jerry Ramos ruled the local division to win the P5,000 top prize.

Pierce keys Celts win; Malone stars for Lakers

BOSTON—Paul Pierce had 26 points, 10 assists and 10 rebounds for his first triple-double of the season to lead Boston past the Milwaukee Bucks, 106-96, Friday night, the first time this season the Celtics have scored 100 or more points.

No Boston opponent has scored 100 or more points this season, and Boston's point total ended the longest season-opening streak of a team not being involved in a 100-point game in NBA history at 14.

The longest overall streak is 18 by the Miami Heat, during the 1988-89 season.

Raef LaFrentz led Boston's solid bench scoring with 14 points. Eric Williams had 13 points and Marcus Banks scored 11 as the Celtics' reserves outscored Milwaukee's 55-34.

Michael Redd led the Bucks with 20 points, and Joe Smith had 12 points and seven rebounds.

In Los Angeles, Karl Malone recorded the fourth triple-double of his 19-year career despite sitting out the fourth quarter, and Devean George had a season-high 19 points as the Lakers routed San Antonio, 103-87.

VANESSA Bryant (right), wife of Kobe Bryant, hugs their daughter Natalia during the Lakers-Spurs game. REUTERS

In his first triple-double since the spring of 1999, the 40-year-old Malone had 10 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in 26 minutes.

Shaquille O'Neal, who sat out the previous two games because of a strained muscle in his right calf, had seven points, eight rebounds, two assists and two blocked shots in 25 minutes.

The win was the fifth straight and eighth in nine games for the Lakers (13-3) and extended their regular-season home winning streak to 24, including nine this season, to tie the Los Angeles franchise record.

Meanwhile, Scott Skiles was named as the new head coach of the Chicago Bulls on Friday.

Complete results:

Atlanta 95, Miami 83; Boston 106, Milwaukee 96; Detroit 92, Cleveland 88; Indiana 90, Philadelphia 77; Minnesota 102, Memphis 98; Toronto 87, Orlando 86; Denver 113, Dallas 103; Golden State 92, Phoenix 83; Utah 98, Seattle 81; Portland 97, New Jersey 93; Sacramento 103, Houston 74; LA Lakers 103, San Antonio 87.

Angola rips Nat'ls

From page A25

Compton, who bared his intention to play in the pro league next year, tallied 15 points to beat three other finalists, including Welcoat's celebrated hitman, James Yap, in the 3-point shootout.

Jemal Vizcarra, also of Sunkist-UST, finished second (12 points) while Viva-FEU's Jeff Napa wound up third with 12.

But the day's biggest win was produced by Fash Liquid's John Christopher Intal who dethroned BluStar's KG Canaleta by coming up with a jaw-dropping one-handed dunk—ala-Vince Carter—to win the slam dunk contest.

Joe

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

Joe Burgos loved risks all his life. But they were risks mostly of the kind that weren't orthodox.

Joe Burgos was a man on the run in that he loved to run after new ideas in constant pursuit of something new; he was as voracious as a termite in trying to gnaw away at things that were not run-of-the-mill.

He wrote a Tagalog column in the INQUIRER beginning in 1986 about farming, the first and only column in Tagalog thus far that appeared in the INQUIRER; it ran for years after which Joe bid adieu to it and went to "radio farming," his program hitting the airwaves at the break of dawn. It was a radical departure from Joe's mien that was basically known as one characterized with fire. In the farm, Joe the angry became Joe the hungry. He suddenly hungered for everything that had something to do with nature, leaving the asphalt jungle peopled by mice disguised as men. Suddenly to him, there was nothing more honorable than embracing nature. Not long after, he gave Sol J a sample of his new found love: pots of bromeliads in bloom; they have since multiplied like mushrooms in the rainy season.

But what I find very noble in him is that any journalist that he meets, he will readily receive him/her as his own. He'll go out of his way to make the rookie feel like he "belongs" already. I was one of those he had treated as one.

Joe touched my life three times.

One, for quite some time, he was the boss of Sol Juvida; Sol J, the love of my life, had been managing editor of Ang Masa, Joe's Pilipino daily, during the turbulent pre-Edsa 1 years. He championed women's rights, giving key positions in his newspapers (We Forum, Malaya and Masa) to women without hesitation.

Two, Joe never had second thoughts printing a letter addressed to him by my daughter, the now-married Malaya, when Malaya was eight years old. Joe said he used Malaya's letter in his column in Malaya "because your daughter has balls." Malaya dared Joe to print her letter "unedited" if Joe believed that Marcos was really a bad president. I had that column framed and consider it now one of my prized possessions.

Three, when several journalists denounced my move to expose the age-cheating scam in that now infamous Little League scandal, Joe sent me a note: "Ignore the hypocrites. Fear no one, for you are merely telling the truth!" Raymond Burgos, Joe's nephew who is Bobby's son, handed the neatly folded note to me.

Bye, Joe. You will always be my hero till the end of time.

***

FASTBREAK. Bonifacio M. Sison, who finds pleasure in walking more than drinking beer, is celebrating today. The gallant libel lawyer of DPWH Secretary Soriquez will spend the day under the shade of trees towering in his farm as he had already partied last night with his select friends at Kamayan West Avenue in Quezon City. Many happy returns of the day, Kuya Boni, and may you have many more birthdays to come...The remains of Nanay Luling, the 92-year-old mother of painter Danny Dalena, will be laid to rest today in Pakil, Laguna, after a 2 p.m. Mass. Again, my deepest condolences.

Wind Blown race festival set Dec. 7 at Santa Ana

A RACING extravaganza honoring the country's most celebrated galloper, Wind Blown, will be held on Dec. 7 at the Santa Ana Park.

Organized by Wind Blown's owner, prominent sportsman Hermie Esguerra, in cooperation with the Philippine Racing Club, the affair dubbed the "Wind Blown Racing Festival" pays tribute to the multititled horse who has caught every racing fan's fancy over a spectacular career that spanned four years.

"I'd like to share with all of my fellow owners, breeders and racing fans alike that very special day as we honor Wind Blown, a horse whom we have all grown to love and adore," said Esguerra, who only last week officially announced Wind Blown's retirement to stud.

"The event does not only augur well for the racing and breeding industry. It is also worthy of people from all the sectors of the industry coming together on that particular day realizing how much Wind Blown has popularized the sport of horseracing,'" added Esguerra.

Highlight of the festival is the farewell gallop of Wind Blown prior to the running of the inaugural Wind Blown Classic where the finest chargers in the land, including those who have ran against the multimillionaire horse, are competing.

A short but colorful ceremony has also been laid out for the racefest, an unprecedented event honoring a horse who had made a strong impact in the resurgence of local racing industry, which is also backed by the Philippine Racing Commission and Philippine Racing Club.

Star jockey Jeffril Zarate will guide the Hazm-Wind in My Hair progeny when he gallops for the last time around the track, while pop singer star Rannie Raymundo will render the highly-charged "Wind Blown" ditty he composed with Macky Maceda and Noli Aurillo as an aperitif to a free rock concert to be held later in the day at the Santa Ana parking lot.

Winning poems in the "Likha Tula" contest will also be recited, while a photo exhibit depicting Wind Blown's career is also scheduled. Esguerra added that Wind Blown caps and T-shirts will also be given to fans.

Wind Blown, dubbed "The King of Philippine Racing," tallied a remarkable 36 wins (24 stakes events) in 49 outings and retired as the richest local galloper of all time with P18,978,695.50 in earnings.

Esguerra announced Wind Blown's retirement following the horse's spectacular win in the 8th Marho Breeders' Cup Classic last Nov. 23. The Nestor Manalang-trained galloper bred by Sandy Javier entered the history books by becoming the first horse to rule it for three consecutive years.

Prior to that, the two-time Horse of the Year awardee won in the Philtobo-Mitra Cup Classic and Saddle and Club Special where he made his comeback race following a six-month hiatus.

Among those vying for supremacy in the Wind Blown Classic (1,800 meters), a preview of the coming Presidential Gold Cup, are Golden Ballet, Free Wind, Diktador, Security Master, High Octane, West Bound, Lyonnais, Material Maker, Perfect Storm, Red Star Rising, Silver Story and Mica's Magic.

ESGUERRA (right) and Zarate guiding Wind Blown around the winner's circle after the Marho Breeders' Cup Classic RUDY ESPERAS

'Da King' meeting 'The King'?

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

LAST Sunday, we were all witness to a race won by a champion.

Without a doubt the abilities shown by Wind Blown is indeed extraordinary and unique.

I say this because looking at this horse closely (on closed circuit TV), he seemed like he knew everybody was expecting him to win. He knew that the crowd (all shouting his name as he traveled the last stretch) wanted to see a hero.

He did not disappoint them, he made them all proud. He entered the winner's circle knowing fully well that he lived up to the expectation of legions of his followers.

Wind Blown was the epitome of a true-blooded champion. News that he will retire for sure will be hard to accept, especially after having shown time and again that he's way above class, just like what he did in winning the Marho Breeders' Cup Classic.

The champion, however we look at him, seems ready for any challenge that may come along his way. Many differing views will come out, but the right direction must be followed, after all, there indeed is life after racing in the thoroughbred world.

I'm sure time will come when the *bayang karerista* will be proven right in their adulation for the most celebrated racehorse in Philippine history.

So it is just fitting, racing fans say, that an honor be accorded Wind Blown.

And that comes in the form of the "Wind Blown Racing Festival" on Dec. 7, an event which no less than Wind Blown's owner and prominent sportsman Hermie Esguerra organized in cooperation with the Philippine Racing Club, which has been witness to the immense following of the super horse.

We heard that horse owners/breeders have supported this event by way of making sure it becomes not only a success but a spectacular event—truly befitting a tribute to a horse that has contributed to the sport of horse racing.

Going beyond different philosophies on the sport, each and everyone agrees that Wind Blown's marketing potential is effective and positive. It is for this reason that many known personalities have called on Mr. Esguerra to contribute to the successful planning of the racefest which he has graciously forwarded to the organizing people of PRCI.

Knowing Mr. Esguerra and his passion for the sport, he will leave no stones unturned, relative to the much-awaited racing spectacle.

"*Nagpapasalamat ako sa* PRCI *sa kanilang mga plano. Bilang may-ari ni* Wind Blown, *nais ko na maging makabuluhan ang araw na ito para magkaisa-isa ang mga taga industriya ng karera sa pagkilala ng malaking tulong na binigay ni* Wind Blown *sa kasikatan ng karera ngayon. Dapat ang* retirement *niya ay magsilbing pag-asa na lalo pang maging* popular *ang isport ng karera,*" said Esguerra.

It is because of the outpouring suppprt of various industry people that Hermie is making sure that racing fans will get a treat on this day, never seen before in Philippine racing.

"*Para sa mga* racing fans *ang araw na ito. Mabuhay silang lahat!*"

On Sunday, the country's most famous horse will make his final gallop with Jeff Zarate aboard prior to the running of the inaugural Wind Blown Classic.

Fans will also hear for the first time a special song on Wind Blown to be rendered by pop singer Rannie Raymundo, not Ogie Alcasid, as we earlier reported.

I had a chance to hear the song penned by Raymundo in collaboration with Macky Maceda and Noli Aurillo and it gave me an adrenalin rush, the same feeling every *karerista* would surely have once Rannie belts it out live on Sunday.

As for the owners and breeders, no matter what group they're associated with, Dec. 7 is the time for them to show that unity can also be achieved in Philippine horseracing.

Will Wind Blown's "guests" come? The *bayang karerista* will be there to check their attendance.

***

The hottest rumor going around on and off the tracks is that FPJ, "Da King" of Philippine movies, is keen on gracing the Dec. 7 racefest at Santa Ana to meet Wind Blown, "The King" of Philippine racing.

That would be one for the books. As they say, *abangan!*

Staunch Ally, Dandansoy head PSA Cup cast

STAUNCH Ally and Dandansoy will head the seven-horse cast competing in the second Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Cup today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Held to honor the late Rudy Navarro, former sports editor of Tempo and an avid racing enthusiast, the one-mile (1,600-meter) race also attracted local chargers Lord of All, Dandansoy, Southern Charm, Serena and Windlass, and imported horse Royal Catch.

A guaranteed prize of P240,000 awaits the winner of the race sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission headed by chair Jimmy Dilag, and hosted by the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

"The Philippine Racing Commission has always supported the cause of the PSA by holding benefit races for the country's oldest media organization and for this we, in the PSA, are eternally grateful to the Philracom and Mr. Dilag," PSA president Bert Cuevas said. "I hope this partnership will continue for the good of both camps," he added.

Cuevas also thanked SLLP and lawyer Alfonso Reyno for hosting the event for the second time.

Staunch Ally, to be ridden by Dominador H. Borbe and Dandansoy, with Val Dilema riding, loomed as the favorites in the race that also offers P90,000 to the runner-up, P50,000 to the third placer and P20,000 to the fourth placer.

Except for Royal Catch, bred in Australia, all the entries have seen action in several stakes races.

Two other big races—the Philippine-Japan Friendship Cup and the Japan Racing Association Cup—is in store for fans starting at 1:30 p.m. today.

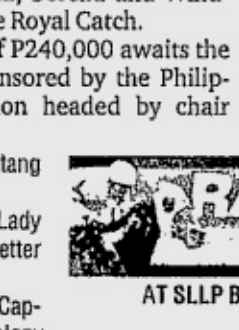
AT SLLP BY MR. 999.

Race 1—1. Apex 2. Batang Westside 3. Mika Mix
Race 2—1. Gentleman's Lady 2. He's Splendid 3. Better Harry 4. Hope
Race 3—1. Ma Cherie 2. Captain Stone 3. Strong Colony
Race 4—1. Order of Merit 2. Rho Sig 3. Classic Tower 4. D'Collector
Race 5—1. Mika's Pride 2. Britney's Magic 3. Blitzkrieg
Race 6—1. Golden Ballet 2. Catwalk Pia 3. Free Wind
Race 7—1. Golden Tale 2. Sovereign Queen 3. Lady Victoria 4. Remarkable
Race 8—1. Buena Sera 2. Adam's Call 3. Gemstone/Gutmoore
Race 9—1. Wing Commander 2. Queen of Gaia 3. Fair Go
Race 10—1. Staunch Ally 2. Dandansoy 3. Royal Catch 4. Windlass
Race 11—1. Party Goer 2. Kantayok 3. Silver Lining 4. Super Dancer
Race 12—1. Hingis 2. Kathy Rose/Come in Glory 3. Chances Are
Race 13—1. Frost Bite 2. Hot Babe 3. Bituin Marikit 4. Ground Wave
Race 14—1. Little Sam 2. Exchange Deal 3. Profit Master 4. Gold Honors

Mano-Mano meet on tap

THE FIRST Mano-Mano challenge, a full-contact martial arts competition, gets under way Dec. 27 at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City.

More than 200 fighters from various martial arts clubs all over the country have registered for the martial arts event that features the best in stand-up fighting.



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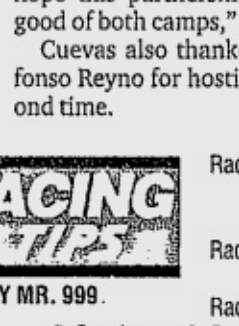

VISAYA

The organizing CEMG trimmed the number of participants to 24 fighters who were chosen for their excellent fight credentials.

Eight players will battle it out for the crown in each of the weight categories: lightweight (62 kg and below), mediumweight (63-71 kg) and heavyweight (72 kg). For one to become champion, he would have to beat three different fighters in one night.

Due to the huge turnout of registration for the first Mano-Mano, CEMG managing director Ed Dames said he would conduct regional elimination bouts next year to screen the best fighters that will represent their respective clubs to the national Mano-Mano championships.

Mercito Gesta, a young fighter from Manila, is representing boxing. Gesta is slowly making a name in professional boxing as proven by his unblemished 18-win record.

Gesta will be up against veteran and undefeated muay thai fighter James Visaya from Baguio City's Way of the Champions.

Puyat sees gold . . . From page A26

mante be fielded in the 8-ball and 9-ball, events where they're certified world-beaters, in the biennial meet set Dec. 2-13.

Puyat doesn't want a repeat of the Busan Asian Games incident, which saw the other contending countries celebrate upon learning that Reyes and Bustamante were entered elsewhere. And, as it turned out, Reyes settled for a bronze while Bustamante had to share the gold with Antonio Lining in the 9-ball doubles.

"I really have no idea. It's up to the BSCP and the POC (Philippine Olympic committee) to decide where Reyes and Bustamante would be of utmost help," said Puyat. "Whatever it is, we'll be supportive."

To make sure that his wards would be spared the blame in case of a foul-up, Puyat had entrusted their fate to the POC hierarchy.

"These guys (Reyes, Bustamante) are making financial sacrifices for the sake of the country, they deserve to be treated well," said Puyat, baring that Reyes and Bustamante were supposed to compete in a $1 million tournament in the United States late this year. Upon knowing that Reyes and Bustamante couldn't go, the organizers acceded to Puyat's request that it be moved early next year.

With the lower level of competition in the SEA Games, Puyat is optimistic the billiards and snooker players would again deliver the golds in Vietnam.

After all, they accounted for 3 golds, 6 silvers and 1 bronze in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur edition even without harnessing Reyes' and Bustamante's talent to the max.

Now, Puyat wants them to take charge.

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5 LOONEY TUNES 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
6 MATRIX REVOLUTIONS 10:50, 1:35, 5:20, 7:05, 9:50
7 AKO IKAW SIYA 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
8 MR. SUAVE 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
9 CHAVIT SINGSON STORY 12:20, 4:40, 9:00, 12:50
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4 THE GRUDGE - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 MR. SUAVE - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50
6 LOONEY TUNES - 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
7 COLD CREEK MANOR - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50

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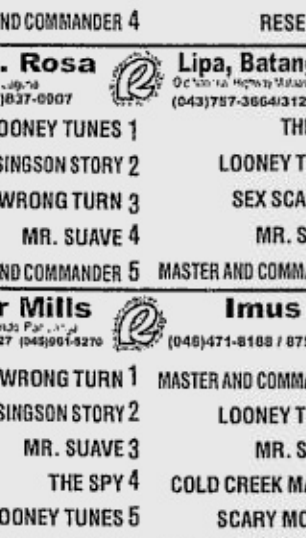

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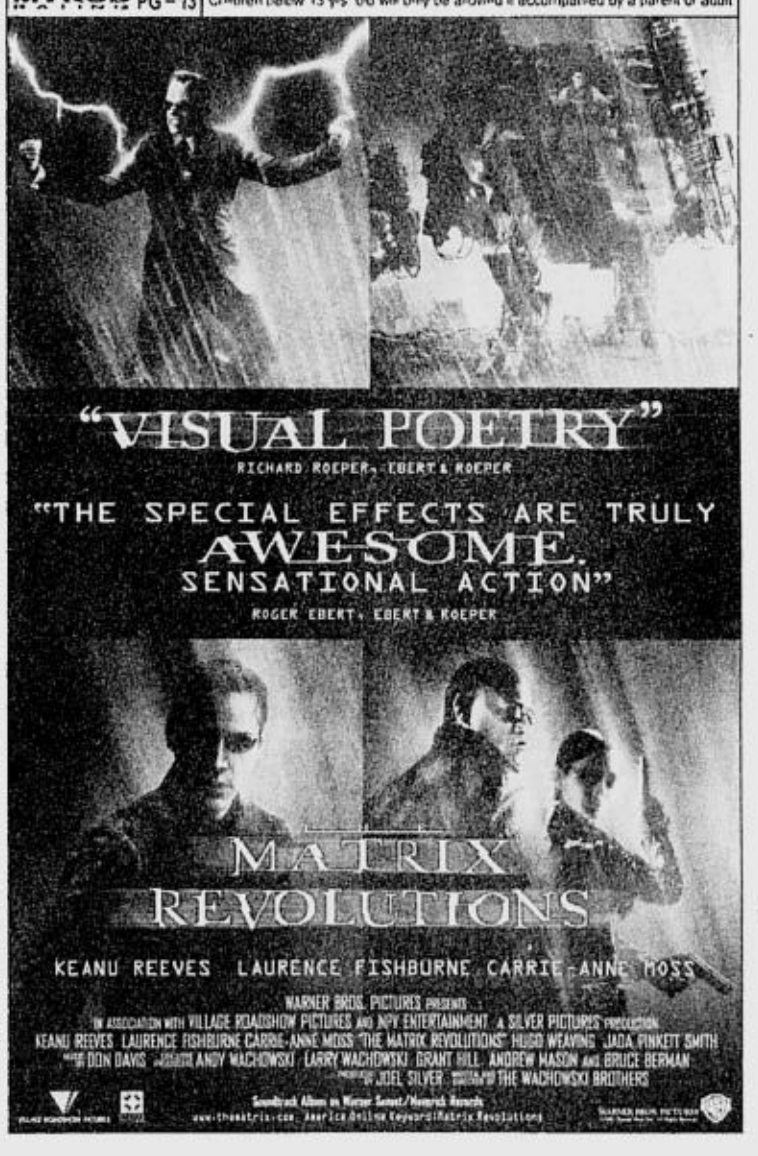

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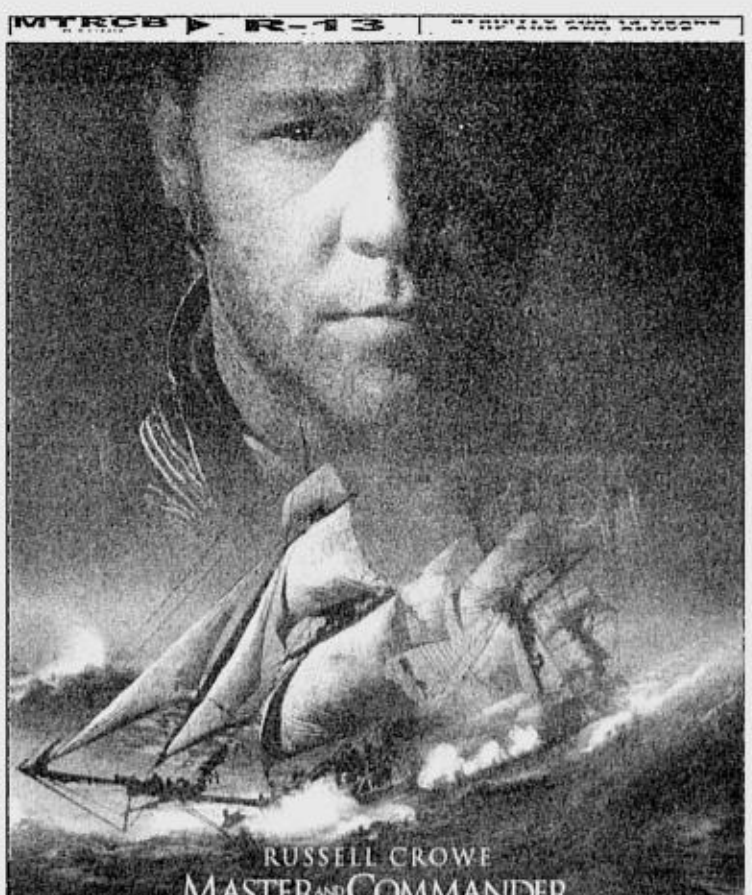

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'Kontra Droga' boxing at Elorde's

BIG-TIME professional boxing goes back tonight at the Elorde Sports Center in Sucat Road, Parañaque, when the Rotary Club of Parañaque Sucat presents "Boxing Kontra Droga Part III" in coordination with Johnny Elorde Management International.

Luzproba No. 4 lightweight contender Noel Hammerpan battles Luzproba No. 3 lightweight Romualdo Mahinay in the first main event that will also feature RP No. 8 flyweight Armand Defensor against former RP No. 5 light flyweight Jimboy Rodriguez and RP No. 7 superbantamweight Vinvin Rufino facing Luzproba No. 4 superbantamweight Charie Angel.

Admission ticket is pegged at P100. For information, call 820-9543 and 826-4463.

Execs net meet set

GAMES and Amusements Board chair Eduardo Villanueva leads a field of celebrities vying for honors in the Philippine Tennis Management Inc. (PTMI) senior executive tennis tournament set Dec. 7-14 at the Quezon City Sports Club on E. Rodriguez Avenue in Quezon City.

Villanueva will be joined by GAB commissioner Angel Bautista in the 35-above tournament. Deadline for submission of entries is Dec. 3 at 2 p.m.

For more details, call 911-4905 or 422-7249. Ask for Dorothy.

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REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

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A	CHAVIT SINGSON
B	AKO, IKAW, SIYA
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

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CINEMA-7	SEX SCANDAL
CINEMA-8	CHAVIT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MASTER AND COMMANDER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LOONEY TUNES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	COLD CREEK MANOR
CINEMA-12	MATRIX REVOLUTION
CINEMA-14	CHAVIT
CINEMA-15	MR SUAVE

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

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(LAS PIÑAS)	MR SUAVE
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(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
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Araneta Center
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Ali 5	MASTER AND COMMANDER
Ali 6	SCARY MOVIE 3
Ali 7	AKO, IKAW, O SIYA

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

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MASTER AND COMMANDER PG13 11:25, 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:50	LOONEY TUNES GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00	LOONEY TUNES GP 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:40

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2 CHAVIT	2 MASTER & COMMANDER		THX GUARANTEED SEATS 2 LOONEY TUNES 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00	2 SCARY MOVIE 3
3 THE GRUDGE	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LOONEY TUNES 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	2 THE GRUDGE 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:00	GUARANTEED SEATS LOONEY TUNES - 12:00, 2:00, 4:00 UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN 6:00, 8:15, 10:30	3 MASTER & COMMANDER
4 MR. SUAVE	4 THE MATRIX REVOLUTIONS	Onstage REGINE VELASQUEZ NOV. 28, 29; 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 COLD CREEK MANOR 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	4 LOONEY TUNES
	5 COLD CREEK MANOR		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 MASTER & COMMANDER 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 11:00	5 COLD CREEK MANOR
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5	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY
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7 (DTS)	SCARY MOVIE-3
8	TRAIN
9	SEX SCANDAL

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3	LOONEY TUNES
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2	CHAVIT SINGSON STORY

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5	MR. SUAVE

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3	

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2	MR. SUAVE
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4	MR SUAVE

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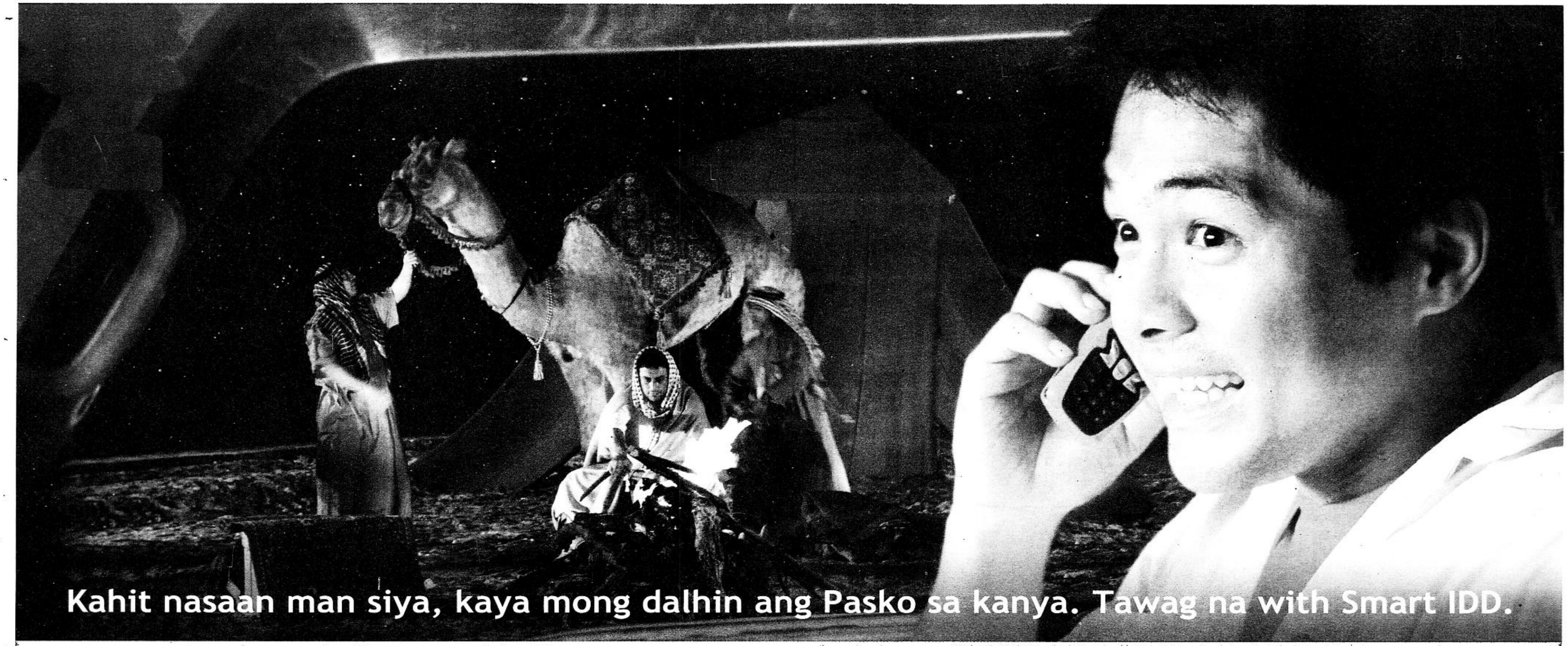
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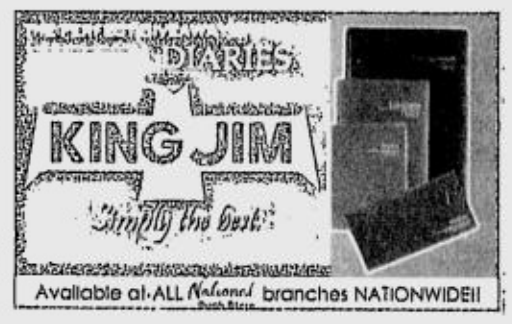


Tax issues may cause firm to go up in smoke

By Michelle V. Remo

WHAT became a successful venture into the tobacco industry for 48 years is turning out to be a tale of a family-owned corporation facing possible closure because of tax problems.

La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Factory, used to lord it over cigarette makers when it was manufacturing popular cigarette brands Philip Morris and Marlboro between 1955 and 2002. However, when the two foreign brands decided to set up shop in the country, La Suerte shifted to manufacturing local brands successfully. Sales of Astro and Memphis shot up to 6.81 million packs in its maiden year 1999, then 357.79 million packs in 2002.

Today it has scaled down production substantially after the Bureau of Internal Revenue came out with a ruling that increases by as much as 400 percent the taxes imposed on its carrier brands Astro and Memphis.

Vice president for operations Antonio Yao says in an exclusive interview with the INQUIRER that the cigarette firm, founded in 1949 by the Telengtan brothers, has reduced operations to only two or three days per week after cutting down its production volume. He also said it has stopped releasing Astro and Memphis to the local market because they could not anymore compete with counterpart brands.

Employees union president Ester Manangan says the scaled down operations have significantly affected the take-home pay of workers, who have given their own share of clamor against the revenue regulation for fear of losing their jobs.

Singled out?

According to Yao, La Suerte is fully supportive of proposals filed in Congress to increase taxes imposed on so-called sin products so long as the raise will cover all cigarette brands to ensure a level playing field. The problem with the revenue regulation, La Suerte says, is that it covers only new cigarette brands, making it feel like it is being singled out by the government.

RR No. 22-2003 imposes higher tax rates on new cigarette brands—or those that have been introduced in the market after 1997—including Astro and Memphis of La Suerte, and Lucky Strike, Philip Morris LNM and West of other cigarette firms.

Yao says among those covered by the increase in tax rates, La Suerte is the most affected because Astro and Memphis account for a bulk—or 98 percent—of the industry's total monthly production of 100,000 cases of new cigarette brands.

He adds that unlike other cigarette firms that have old and more popular brands to carry their businesses, La Suerte depended heavily on Astro and Memphis for income.

RR 22-2003 imposes the following new tax rates: P13.44 per pack for brands that have a net retail price of at least P10; P8.96 for brands that cost P6.50 to P10 per pack; P5.60 those that have a net retail price of P5 to P6.50 per pack; and P1.12 for brands worth less than P5 per pack.

TAX/ B2

NINO JESUS ORBETA- PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

FOR four years, Rey Pancho has been making and selling his rattan-made Christmas decors alone in downtown Legazpi.

Runaway finds home with Santas and reindeer

By Gil Francis Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—For almost four years now, Rey Pancho, 35, and a resident of Pilar, Sorsogon, has been making and selling Christmas decors made of rattan in this city's busy downtown area.

"No one would ever believe that it was purely accidental that I ventured in this kind of work. I never liked art nor making this kind of stuff, but finding a job without a college degree is very hard, so I decided to undergo training in handicraft making.

And with God's help, I then felt in love with this job," he says.

Making impressive and remarkable Christmas decors has always been his "Christmas gift" to the Bicolanos. When September comes, many people are already anticipating for the first display of his works. At this time, orders start to come.

Runaway

Due to poverty and inability to finish his schooling, Pancho ran away from home to try his luck in Metro Manila.

He is the eldest among nine children, thus pressure on him to earn income to help his parents and siblings was too heavy.

During his stowaway years, he spent his youth in some parts of Metro Manila and in different provinces in Region IV like Batangas, Mindoro, Quezon and Cavite. He even tried Cebu, Samar and Iloilo. He was later employed as a worker at the Project A handicraft factory in Quezon City where for 10 years he learned the skills in making handicrafts.

But nothing good happened to his life. In 1999, he returned to his hometown of Pilar in Sorsogon. But after just two months he decided to settle in Legazpi City, the regional center of Bicol, and started making Christmas decors made of rattan.

Since then he has established himself as the leading maker of Santa Claus, Nativity, angels and Sto. Niño figures as well as lanterns and Christmas trees.

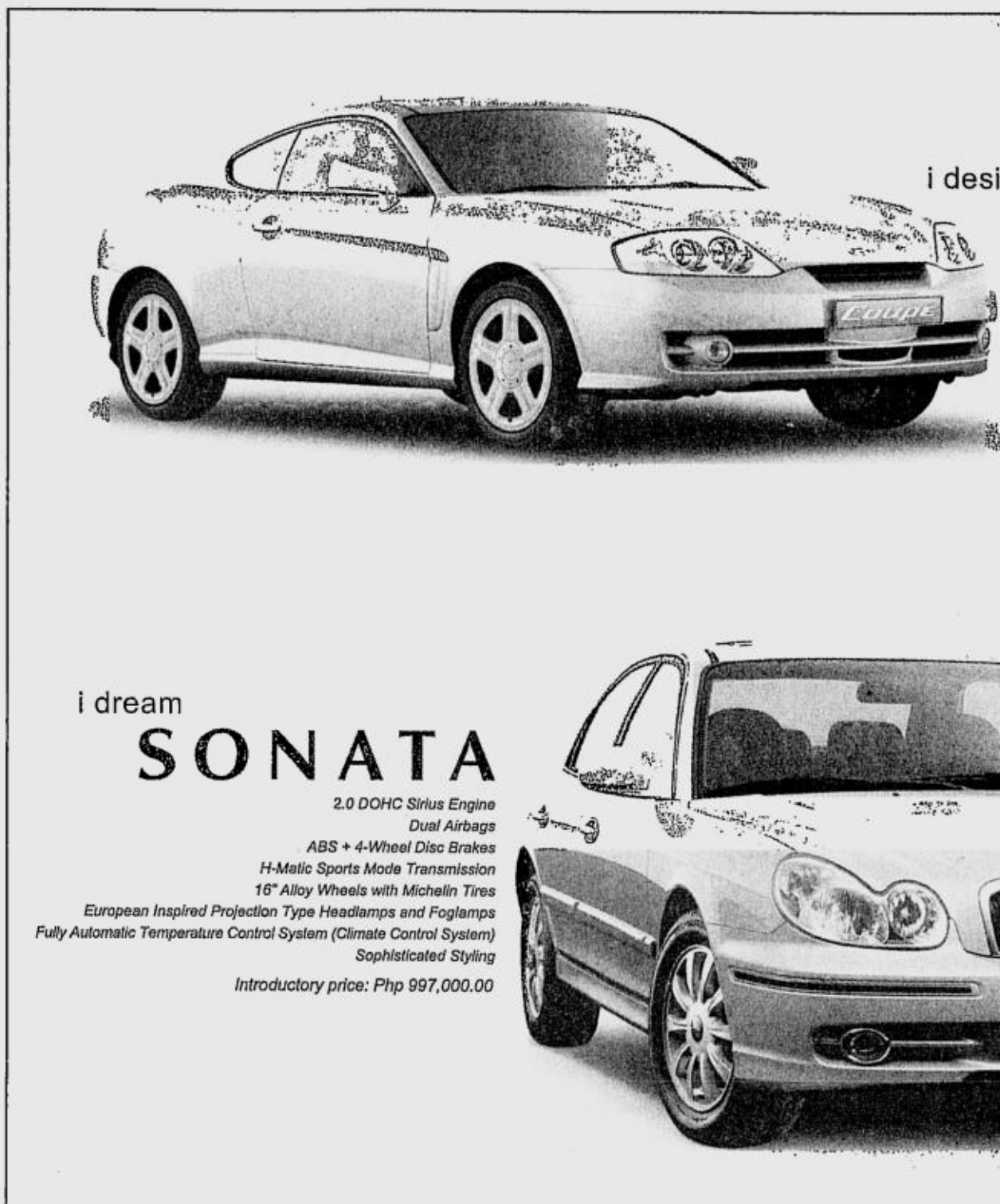
From the time he decided to stay in Legazpi City for good and started his enterprise, his works have fascinated Bicolanos all over the region.

Pancho has buyers in the region's six provinces that have been tapping and exporting his products. Moving from Pilar to Legazpi City, he says, was one of the most important decisions that he had ever made in his life since strategically, the marketability of his craft is assured.

One-man labor

The INQUIRER has witnessed how Pancho worked on his products alone. For almost four years now, he has been renting a small yet very strategic place in downtown Legazpi near the

RUNAWAY / B2



What it takes to be a meat retailer

MONTEREY Foods Corp., the country's largest meat retailer and the only one with farm to meal operations, boasts of 262 outlets nationwide from only four in 1990 following strong interest among entrepreneurs to acquire a Monterey meatshop under a time-tested and success-proven franchising agreement.

The growth of Monterey outlets phenomenal, reaching 136 meatshops in 1995 following the opening of Monterey franchise system. To date, a total of 262 Monterey meatshops have established a most lucrative niche throughout the country. Of these outlets, 114 are located in Metro Manila, 28 in North Luzon, 41 in South Luzon and 79 in Visayas and Mindanao. Fifty-four percent are under franchise and forty-six percent are company owned and operated.

Monterey franchisee Alex Agoncillo said that three years after he got his first Monterey Meatshop, he now has three outlets in Dasmariñas and Silang, Cavite and in Parañaque.

"A Monterey franchise can be your family's ticket to a world of opportunities and financial security. I can honestly say that joining Monterey is one of the best business decisions I have ever made," Agoncillo said.

Loreto Vergeire, who has a Monterey meatshop in Better Living, Parañaque, said "Monterey has provided us the skills, methodology and techniques to equip and enhance us in becoming more responsive and effective in the workplace resulting in better sales."

Vergeire cited Monterey for its good merchandising system noting that the "success of any retail business is the work of a good merchandising system."

"Joining the Monterey Franchise System, you get a proven operation system of meat retailing. You also get a tremendous amount of help from experts in the business: trainers, site specialists, money people and operations people," said Ina Ticson, owner of a Monterey franchise in Harrison Plaza.

Because Monterey has an integrated "farm to meal" operations, Monterey franchisees are assured of a stable supply of quality meat products for their retailing activity. They exclusively sell a wide range of Monterey Pork and Beef products as well as Monterey Ready-to-Cook Meals, Magnolia Chicken and Pure Foods chicken, hotdogs and other processed meat products. Each Monterey Meatshop is also equipped with a modern meat fabrication facility. On top of these, the Monterey Meatshop is manned by a crew of butchers and merchandisers specially trained at the Monterey Meat School.

What does it take to become a Monterey franchisee?

Estimated initial capital—P 1.2 million

Franchise fee—P120,000 + VAT

Area requirement—approximately 45 square meters

In addition to the financial requirements, a Monterey investor must be of high integrity and strong commitment, and should have stable financial capability, good people-handling skills and hands-on management style.

A total meat company that is backed by a rich, reputable history ably supports such dedication by a Monterey Meatshop franchisee. Formerly Monterey Farms Corp., the firm began in 1969 with one 1,200-hectare cattle ranch in Isabela. In 1980, it became a subsidiary of San Miguel Corp., the Philippines' largest food and beverage conglomerate.

It is now the country's largest hog and cattle operations and has the latest technology in feed milling, breeding, livestock raising, slaughtering, meat retailing and meat processing.

Good food, art and small talk keep this café afloat

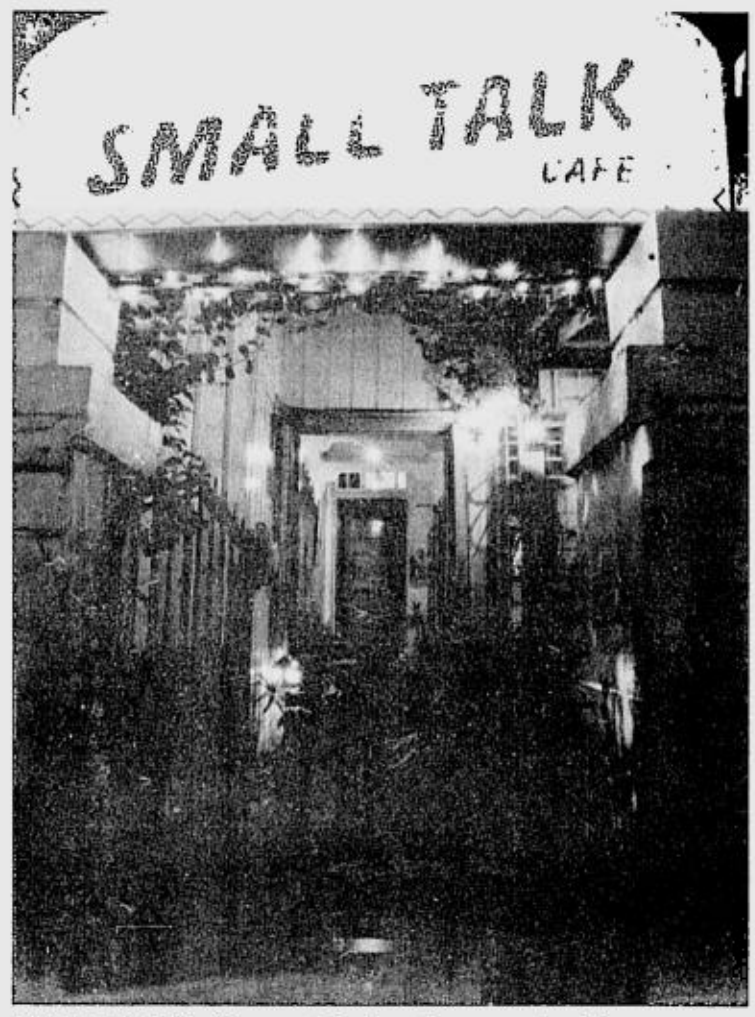
By Joyce Mejillano and Ronnie Lorejo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Never did it occur in the mind of Didette Peralta, a Food Technology graduate of the University of the Philippines, that her passion for food plus the artistry of her elder brother would turn their small family business into a favorite café for people from various walks of life.

Established in 1995, Small Talk Café, located in the heart of Albay District, has become one of the most sought-after dining places in Legazpi City today.

During lunchtime and dinnertime, vehicles of various models can be seen parked on both sides of Dona Aurora Street where the establishment is located as motorists savor their favorite dishes.

As Senator Manuel Villar said, "it's certainly a nice surprise to see a quaint and wholesome eating place in Legazpi."



SMALL Talk Café offers great foods and a very cool ambiance.

Experimental business

After the death of her father, the former Aquinas University College of Law dean, Vicente Peralta, Didette says she and her siblings decided to put up a small business. But as to what kind of business would be the best, they didn't know.

She admits that they had no background in handling any business at all.

"We actually tried several businesses but they didn't work out well, until my brother Jerry and I came up with the idea of a small café using a portion of our ancestral house," Didette says.

And so, the Small Talk Café was born.

Why the name Small Talk? Didette replies: "Actually we had several options but it was the one approved by the Department of Trade and Industry."

Different roles

Didette, being a food enthusiast, is the one in-charge of the food, while Jerry takes charge of the interior design. Their two other siblings also have their parts in the business.

"My mom even has a role to play. She's good in entertaining customers and has a very good PR," Didette says.

She says she gave up her career in a Gokongwei-owned company to look after their business.

At first, she recalls, she was wary of the food they served since she prepared food that she liked.

"I wanted something new in Legazpi and I wanted my foods quite different from the rest," she says.

But everything became a surprise when, suddenly, initial customers kept on coming back and expressed satisfaction over the taste of the food that they served.

This time, they still keep on coming—but with friends and relatives already.

Food fusion

Didette made a difference by combining western foods with local touch—like the pasta pinangat, Bicol express pasta and pili choco chips, among other local delicacies.

"It's like a fusion of east and west and everybody seems to like it," she stresses. The menus are carefully studied, especially those that are innovated.

"I need to study very well the foods. Like the pasta pinangat, I served it first to my friends and relatives and when they and I were all satisfied with the taste, that was the only time we offered it to the customers."

Small Talk also serves dishes common to other restaurants, from meat foods to seafoods and veggies.

Ambiance

Jolina Magdangal, who happened to drop by the place during one of her tours in Albay, jotted down in the guest book "Cute di-*to, ang ganda ng* ambiance."

The 320-square-meter café provides jazz music on the background, with the walls decorated with old photos and antique displays and other memorabilia that depict the lifestyle of people in Albay, mostly in dramatic black and white pictures taken as early as 1920s.

Didette says they researched and looked for the photos from friends and other sources throughout the province.

The gallery adds attraction to the lovely place.

On the other side, a glass painting made by Jerry that sits on a miniature garden also fascinates their patrons.

"Sometimes our customer would ask if we have an interior designer and I said 'no'," she says.

Jerry, according to Didette, loves art but chose to teach journalism.

Even the comfort room is unique, aside from being immaculately maintained.

"Instead of putting the usual male and female tags, we looked for cute old clippings that depict a male and a female and posted these on the doors."

Growing

Now, Small Talk is no longer small, as it has its own regular clients, mostly professionals and businessmen.

Some government and private agencies treat their visitors for dining in the café.

Some important figures like senators, cabinet officials and foreign ambassadors have already dined in the place, aside from famous show biz and media personalities.

The growing influx of customers forced Didette and siblings to open up the other portion of their house for expansion.

"We are now ready to hold small seminars and parties," Didette says.

They also cater to any occasion with up to 200-people capacity.

"I don't accept bigger parties because I don't want to push myself into something that we cannot do." Didette says everyday is quite fulfilling since "Everyday is a peak season. The place is really full packed during dinnertime."

They are planning to open another outlet in Naga City.

They reject suggestions to expand their place and put a second floor in their residence since, according to her, they want to preserve the natural designs of their home that was built in the 1940s.

Asked what's their secret in keeping the business afloat is, Didette reveals, "It's the unending quest for good foods."

Runaway finds home . . .

From page B1

Union Bank and Mercury drug store.

Unlike in his previous job in Project A handicraft factory, where they were more than 100 Christmas decor makers, here he both serves as the maker and seller of his work.

With only a small working capital, he can't afford to pay any other laborer.

"The capital that I've invested in this was my savings from my previous job in Project A in Quezon City," he humbly says.

But with his perseverance, industry and craftsmanship, he has satisfied the orders of his buyers even if he works alone.

For the last four years, he has survived and has increased his income through his one-man enterprise. "Many people have been astounded every time they learn that I work alone. They often asked me if I still have time to rest. Of course, I have been here for four years so I'm used to it already," he says confidently.

In just one day, Pancho can finish a two-foot figure of a Santa Claus and the reindeer. Sometimes if he goes on overtime, he can even start the Nativity and finish a pair of Christmas trees.

Masterpiece

For Pancho, the figures of Santa Claus and the reindeer are what he considers as his masterpiece though he also shifts to other types of craftsmanship. "I really find it amusing and interesting to make Santa Claus since no matter how hard and how long I would finish it, I feel fulfilled and very satisfied," he says.

Santa Claus and the reindeers are Pancho's main products.

He tells the INQUIRER that when he was still under training it took him more than a week before he could finish it. But when he mastered the art of crafting it, he eventually started to love making the decor, which became his favorite. He even convinces his clients to buy first his Santa Claus.

Some people order Santa Claus figures that are higher than two feet, its normal size. The Santa Claus decor has become a constant attention-drawer among the impressed buyers. In fact, even leading hotels, restaurants, banks, private and government offices, and schools have displayed his works.

Each figure costs P1,200 and is entirely made of the weaker core of the white vine rattan. But Pancho says it is half the price of similar Christmas decor being sold in Metro Manila and neighboring regions. He adds that even his angels and the Nativity have been sold at a very low price of P1,700, compared to the triple-priced similar items in Manila. Durability and endurance are qualities of his products, which if varnished, can last up to three to five years.

But since his products come out only during Christmas season, most likely, they could last more than five years, especially if properly stored. "Sometimes I tell my clients about the technique that I use to make my handicrafts last longer. I'm very happy when they follow it, as they become witnesses to the products' durability and endurance, compared to the usual but very costly designs they buy in leading department stores and commercialized market," Pancho claims.

He says that despite heavy workload during the Christmas season, making and selling his own decors make him proud and happy—especially if the customers appreciate the aesthetic qualities of his products. Though the nature of his work is seasonal, he is glad that he has customers who make advance orders even in the months of July to September.

"It's almost the same experience I had when I was still in Quezon City, where making Christmas decors has become an all year-round business," Pancho says, adding that he feels thankful for having been trained in handicraft making for more than a decade. "Every time I remember that memorable experience all I can ever think is that there's always a way to find one's success, happiness and luck. You should only be humble and enjoy your work," he says.

Helping the youth

One of Pancho's resolutions is to help the out-of-school youths appreciate this type of living. He says he really wants to train them and eventually make them productive and earn income instead of spending their time for nothing.

"That would be my simple yet meaningful legacy to them," he says.

SEN. Juan Flavier with Didette (in blue) during one of the senator's visit in Legazpi.

Tax issues may cause firm to go up in smoke

From page B1

The company official says the new tax rate of P5.60 per pack has increased the prices of Memphis and Astro to at least P12, which is much higher than the average price of P7 to P8 of its counterpart brands.

"Unlike for imported cigarettes, there is no such thing as brand loyalty for Astro and Memphis because they cater to low-income earners. Our clients will simply shift to other much cheaper local brands," says Yao.

A similar incident happened in 1997 when the production of its former brand Forbes had to be stopped after the BIR placed the cigarette brand to a higher tax bracket.

La Suerte, however, was still the exclusive distributor of the foreign brands Philip Morris and Marlboro, which composed the bulk of its production and which were doing well in terms of market share.

Philip Morris ended its partnership with La Suerte when the foreign cigarette maker established its own manufacturing facility in Batangas late last year.

The breakup of La Suerte and Philip Morris forced the former to be dependent on new brands Astro and Memphis, which were introduced in the market in 1999.

Defect in the law

Although higher revenue will result from the imposition of higher tax rates on all cigarette brands, the revenue agency can only cover newly introduced brands because the Tax Code, which has been revised in 1996, only allows indexation of cigarette brands introduced in the market after the law was enacted.

"The revenue regulation practically discouraged the entry of new players in the industry because it allows the BIR to increase their taxes anytime, while making old cigarette brand makers to enjoy lower tax rates," Yao says.

Officials of La Suerte recently met with Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. to ask him to defer the implementation of RR 22-2003 until such time Congress passes a bill that will supersede the perceived-to-be flawed revenue regulation and that will require the indexation of all—old and new—cigarette brands.

He admits, however, that La Suerte is losing hope Congress will be able to pass any of the pending bills soon because legislators are seem to be preoccupied by the coming elections.

"He (Parayno) says he could not issue a deferment of the revenue regulation, but that he is leaving the court to decide on the matter," Yao says.

Yao was referring to the case filed by La Suerte asking for an injunction on RR 22-2003. He says the company is questioning the legality of the regulation because the Constitution requires equity in taxation.

He, however, says La Suerte does not know how long it will take the court to make a decision.

The revenue agency is expecting some P1.6 billion in additional revenue from the issuance of RR No.22-2003. The new revenue regulation is among other moves of the BIR that aimed at hitting a higher revenue collection.

While other efforts to improve collection—such as imposing value added tax on professionals, proved to be fruitful—the capability of RR 22-2003 to generate more revenue has been put to question if and when Memphis and Astro made a permanent exit from the local market. RR 22-2003 ironically resulted in the loss revenue sources.

Effects on tobacco farmers

Meanwhile, La Suerte is merely depending on Canon and a newly revived old brand Golden Key for its local revenue.

But the production volume for these two brands are significantly lower than the firm's previous production level of about 100,000 cases of Astro and Memphis per month. The production volume of Canon, he says, is only at 2,000 to 3,000 cases per month, while that of Golden Key is much smaller.

This condition poses a threat not only to workers of La Suerte but to the 25,000 to 45,000 tobacco farmers in Northern Luzon and the estimated 2,000 workers of tobacco dealers that depend largely on La Suerte's orders, says Yao.

He adds that La Suerte accounted close to 50 percent of the farmers' production for 2003, and that it has been sourcing most of its tobacco requirements locally, unlike other cigarette firms who get their raw materials abroad.

The farmers, who are based in the provinces of La Union, Ilocos and Isabela, have given their own share of protest against the revenue regulation. Joining La Suerte's workers during their visit to the DOF to request for the deferment of the revenue regulation, some tobacco farmers also raised the same fear of being displaced from work.

Trying to survive

With the thousands of company workers, tobacco farmers and leaf tobacco dealers to be affected by a company closure, Yao says La Suerte is seeking for ways to stay alive.

He says the company is now entertaining the idea of engaging in the export business. La Suerte, he adds, will find out whether selling its brands abroad would be a good move to save it from its current woes.

The company official adds that the firm could start with a small export volume to any Southeast Asian country.

"La Suerte is trying hard to stay in business because as much as possible we do not want to layoff an employee," said Yao.

He added, however, that the company might be forced to cut down the number of its production workforce should the court decides against its request for an injunction on the RR 22-2003.

Taipan takes his mall design out of the box

TAIPAN Henry Sy Sr. at the newly opened SM City Baguio.

WHEN SM City Baguio opened its doors to the public last weekend, visitors to mall were not only amazed at the mix of great shopping, leisure, and entertainment, but also at the beauty of the mall.

Terrace like structures following the land's terrain ... a canopy like roof at the center of the atrium ... a scenic elevator ... pine trees and flowers all around.

The mall's construction and design team, Design International, a foreign design consultant; Jose Siao Ling and Associates, architects; New Golden City, general contractors; and DA Abcede and Associates collaborated with SM's engineering group to bring the traditional SM mall design, so they say, out of the box.

More than that, the mall's design and features make it a very environment-friendly mall. The tensile roofing at the mall's atrium, for example, is not only an attraction, but also allows for natural ventilation in the mall. As such, visitors to the mall's common areas can enjoy Baguio's cool mountain air.

In a city known for its concern about water, the mall treats and recycles water.

The mall's structure likewise allows shoppers to view Baguio's breathtaking beauty even indoors. The terraces give one a breathtaking view of the beauty of Baguio: the mountains in front and the city and mountains at the back. When SM Founder and Chair Henry Sy, Sr. opened the mall to the public last Nov. 21, he did not open a door as before, but pushed a button for the counter weight glass doors to rise up. These glass doors allow one to see the outdoors, a first in the Philippines.

BAGUIO City Mayor Bernardo Vergara welcomes INQUIRER president and CEO Sandy Prieto-Romualdez. Looking on are SM president Teresita Sy-Coson and First VP Millie Dizon.

Located on a 79,763 square meter property at the site of the former Pines Hotel in Session, SM City Baguio is the 16th SM Supermall. It has 106,231 square meters and six levels of great shopping, leisure and entertainment.

SM City Baguio has 800 parking slots.

New player gives away new phones

SUN Cellular presents "Sun Blast," the ultimate mobile phone mania being held simultaneously across the country from Nov. 28 to Dec. 17, 2003.

Following the success of Sunstroke, "Sun Blast" features scorching-hot discounts and free phones for select Sun Cellular plan subscriptions and awesome prizes ranging from cool vacation treats to high-tech gadgets and appliances. Plus, an exciting musical showcase from the hottest bands and the brightest music artists is yours to enjoy in the most happening venues.

Get ready for these explosive offers : Get a free phone (Like Sony Ericsson T100, Motorola C201 or LG B1300) even if you subscribe to Sun Cellular's lowest-priced subscriptions—Plan 250.

"Sun Blast" goes the extra mile in keeping you, your family and friends in touch as free extra prepaid phonekits are up for grabs to those who will subscribe to Plan 1000 and up. This is over and on top of the handset you choose to avail with your plan subscription.

Choose from prepaid phonekits of DB-

NEW/ B6

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Interest Rate:
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Offer Period:
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Republic of the Philippines
Bureau of the Treasury
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JOINT-ISSUE MANAGERS:
Land Bank of the Philippines
405-7266 to 70; 405-7326; 405-7101
405-7228; 522-0000 loc. 2543, 2369, 2558
Development Bank of the Philippines
867-2945; 812-5799; 830-0990; 818-9511
loc. 2812, 2824; 2831, 2821
SELLING AGENTS:
Landbank of the Philippines
BPI Capital
Equitable PCI Bank
First Metro Investment Corp.
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Veterans Bank

Q&A:

1. What are Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs)?
The Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs) are part of the government's savings mobilization program designed to make government securities available to retail investors. It is issued by the Republic of the Philippines through the Bureau of the Treasury. This issue of the RTBs will have a maturity of 3 years and an investor may purchase any tenor or a combination thereof. Interest or coupon payments will be paid quarterly compared to the regular Treasury Bonds which are paid semi-annually.
2. Why invest in RTBs?
The RTBs are designed to provide a safe, high-yielding and affordable savings instrument.
RTBs are safe. They are considered practically risk-free because they are direct, unconditional and general obligations of the Republic of the Philippines.
RTBs are high-yielding. Interest rates are superior to typical time deposit rates.
RTBs are affordable. The minimum denomination is only P5,000 and in multiples of P5,000 thereafter.
3. Who can purchase the RTBs?
The RTBs aim to cater to retail investors such as individuals, and corporations who are looking for a safe, affordable and high-yielding investment for their savings. In addition, the RTBs will also be available for purchase by financial and other institutional investors.
4. Where and when can an investor purchase RTBs?
The RTBs will be sold to the public during the Public Offering (PO) which will be announced in major dailies.
The Public Offering is the opportunity given to retail investors to subscribe to the RTBs through LANDBANK and DBP and the accredited Underwriters and Selling Agents.
The terms and conditions applicable to the RTBs as well as copies of the complete documentation will be made available during the Public Offering by each Underwriter and Selling Agent.
5. How does an investor participate in the PO?
Investors may purchase the bonds over the counter from the Underwriter or Selling Agent nearest them, subject to the minimum deposit requirements of each Underwriter and Selling Agent.
They will be required to open a peso deposit account or designate an existing peso account where interest payment and principal redemption of the RTBs will be credited.
For corporations, copies of the Board Resolutions authorizing the purchase of RTBs and indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures shall be required.
6. What is an investor's proof of ownership?
The Underwriters and Selling Agents will sell the RTBs to individuals and other investors on a non-recourse basis through confirmations of outright sale (the "Confirmations of Sale") issued by the Underwriter or Selling Agent. Investors may pick up these Confirmations of Sale a few days after the close of the public offering from the offices of the Underwriter or Selling Agent. In the meantime, an Acknowledgement Receipt will be issued to investors at the time of payment.
No certificate will be issued to bondholders as ownership by individuals and other investors will be registered in electronic form under the BTr's Registry of Scripless Securities.
7. Can an investor still purchase RTBs after the public offering?
After the PO, an investor can buy RTBs from the secondary market at prevailing market prices.
8. What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?
The RTBs are considered having the least credit-risk because they represent the direct and unconditional obligation of the government thereby enjoying the highest certainty of payment. The yield is assured if the investor holds on to the bond until maturity. However, if an investor opts to sell the RTBs in the secondary market prior to its maturity, then it will be subject to interest rate risk depending on the prevailing market rate at the time the RTBs are resold in the secondary market.
9. Where can an investor trade his RTBs?
Investors can sell their RTBs to the Underwriter/ Selling Agent from which the RTBs were originally purchased subject to prevailing market rates.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Countryside growth fueled by rural banks

OVER 1800 rural bank branches located all over the Philippines cover more than 85 percent of all municipalities in the country. This broad geographic coverage makes rural banks an interesting distribution channel for government programs and financial products aimed at country folk.

It is in this context that rural banks become truly important in nation-building. Rural banks bridge the gap between common folk and formal financial institutions thereby becoming instruments of countryside growth and development.

Making these financial services available and affordable to enterprising Filipinos should positively contribute to the government's poverty alleviation efforts.

A good example of a rural bank that has successfully managed its loan portfolios across different sectors in the countryside is the Rural Bank of Panabo (RBP) in Davao.

According to Alex V. Buenaventura, chair of RBP, RBP's client base is composed mainly of small depositors and borrowers: farmers, fisherfolk, market vendors, entrepreneurs, government and private sector employees. To serve this diverse group, the bank designs and packages its loan products to maximize the benefits derived by its clients while minimizing their default rate. They have loan products that help farmers finance the milling of rice, and those that assist market vendors in financing their merchandise. They also have a broad salary loan base designed as a payroll deduction product.

Another aspect of RBP's operations that not only shows its commitment to countryside development but that also reflects the financial acuity of its management is its ability to steadily expand its base of small depositors. Whereas commercial banks prefer a few big depositors, RBP has 45 thousand depositors as of end 2002 with a small average deposit size of P8,500.

Because of their ability to profitably serve Filipinos in the countryside, rural banks are indispensable components of the fight against poverty. Government and the private sector should therefore support all efforts to strengthen the rural banking system as this will benefit a broad segment of the economy.

Perhaps countryside development and progress is the untested vehicle for bringing countrywide peace.

AYALA PHOTO EXHIBIT

Officials of the Ayala Land Inc (ALI) open the ALI photo exhibit entitled 'You Keep Dreaming, We'll Keep Building', in celebration of the company's 15th year of building communities. The exhibit is at the lobby of the Ayala Tower One and will be moved to the Ayala Center on October. Cutting the ceremonial ribbon (from left) are Fernando Zobel de Ayala, ALI chair; Mercedita S. Nolledo, ALI executive vice president; Francisco H. Licuanan III, ALI president; and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Ayala Corp. president and chief executive officer. Behind are members of the ALI management committee. The ALI anniversary celebration theme reflects both its vision of thriving model residential, work and leisure communities and its corporate role in nation-building.

Ellen's Whitening Centre

NOW BOOMING in the beauty business is the newly opened Whitening Center of Ellen's Skin Care and Permanent Cosmetics Corp, an aesthetics center that provides both surgical and non-surgical beauty enhancement procedures located at the 3rd floor of Ellen's Building along 54 Timog Ave., Quezon City (413-3375). Coinciding with its opening is the introduction of Ellen's whitening signature formulas, the Miracle Whitening Cream, the Miracle Whitening Lotion and Body Micro-peel, a complete line of innovative products used for skin discoloration that are proven safe and effective.

Ran and operated by Janice Lising, daughter of Ellen Lising, a beauty consultant who has had various training and studies in Hong Kong, Japan and Singapore and the United States, the chain of Ellen's Aesthetic Centers has been consistently providing quality service to its clients that include beauty queens, movie celebrities and famous personalities in the last 25 years. Its non-surgical procedures range from simple facial and laser treatment to facelift and eye-bags removal, permanent cosmetics, skin whitening and treatments, instant body peeling, neck and hand rejuvenation, and spa services among others.

Its surgical services include the latest and safest clinical procedures performed by a team of certified aesthetic, reconstructive and burn surgeons, led by Dr. Laurence Toh, of the International Plastic Surgery Council and vice president of Lipoplasty Society of the Philippines and Philippine Association of Plastic Surgeons. Its services are nose, face and bust lift, breast augmentation, tummy tuck, liposuction, scar revision and dermabrasion.

Ellen's Skin Care and Aesthethic Center (413-3375/413-6357) has ten branches, among them, Ellen's Bldg. 54 Timog Ave., QC; Fuentes Bldg., 13-C West Ave., QC; BT and T Bldg., Acropolis, Libis; 2875 Rizal Ave., Manila; Hernz I Bldg. (in front of SM Southmall), Las Piñas City; San Fernando Pampanga; Mc Arthur Highway Angeles City; Mc Arthur Highway San Roque, Tarlac; Aguinaldo Highway, Bacoor Cavite and Olongapo City.

AMSPEC CONDUCTS SALES CONFERENCE

Amalgamated Specialties Corp (Amspec) recently conducted its three-day 2003 Sales Conference in Phinma Training Center in Tagaytay City. Adopting the theme 'Let's Get Better', the new fiscal year promises to be another exceptional year for the company. Photo includes Amspec top management - Rolland Thompson, president; Eliseo Laqui Jr., EVP; Branden Thompson, AVP; Edmundo Centeno, AVP; C. Antonette Ravana-Severino, marketing manager; and Wency Cao, National Sales Manager. Photo also includes Romy Patajo, regional sales manager, Metro Manila and provincial salesmen along with Riza Abian, Li'l Hands officer; Paul Oraa, Lotus product manager; HRD manager Lenien Francisco; Amspec legal counsel lawyer Cesar Lopez, quality control manager Alfonso Morales and materials manager Vic Coronado.

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'Strengthening SME Competitiveness through IT and E-Commerce'

December 2 – 4, 2003
Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC)
Pasay City, Philippines

COME & VISIT!!!

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

December 02, 2003, Tuesday
Focus on SME's

AM Programme
9:00 - 9:30 Opening Ceremonies/Invocation/National Anthem
9:30 - 10:00 Keynote Address - by Atty. Raul S. Roco
10:00 - 10:30 The National SME Agenda
- by Under Sec. Gregory L. Domingo, DTI
10:30 - 11:00 The Philippine Model for Digitizing SMEs
- by Ms. Merle Yaptenco, Pres & CEO, Fix Systems, Inc. & Former UN Consultant
11:00 - 11:15 --- Tea Break---
11:15 -11:45 Starting Your E-Business: Basic Steps
- by William Cabelin, Corporate Sales Manager, Pacific Internet
11:45 -12:15 Open Forum
12:15 -1:30pm --- Lunch Break---

PM Programme
1:30 - 2:00 Financing Your E-Business
- by Melvin E. Abanto, VP, Small Business Guarantee & Finance Corp. (SBGFC)
2:00 - 2:30 Essential IP Issues for SMEs
- by Atty. Gwen Grecia de Vera, PJS Law
2:30 - 3:00 Online Advertising in a Post Dotcom World - by Ramon D. Lizardo, VP INQ7.net
3:00 - 3:15 --- Tea Break ---
3:15 - 3:45 Case Studies of SME Doing E-Business Case Number 1
3:45 - 4:15 Case Number 2
4:15 - 4:30 Open Forum
4:30 - 5:00 Business Consultation

December 03, 2003, Wednesday
Focus on Electronic Payment and Solutions

AM Programme
9:00 - 9:30 Registration
9:30 -10:15 Electronic payment as a major challenge in the success of e-Business
- by Emmanuel Herbosa, Vice President, BPI
10:15 -11:00 Online Payment Solutions
- by Eric J. Severino, Director, Sales & Marketing, BancNet
11:00 -11:30 --- Tea Break ---
11:30 -12:15 Online Payment Solutions
- by Gregorio C. Severino, Assistant VP, Equitable PCI Bank
12:15 -12:45 Panel Reaction/Open Forum

--- Lunch Break --- (working lunch/to be served)

PM Programme
1:00 - 1:30 Official Address of Secretary Mar Roxas Secretary, Department of Trade & Industry (DTI)
1:45 - 2:30 Protection Beyond Firewalls
- by Yancy Piczon, Technical Consultant, Computer Associates (CA)
2:30 - 3:15 Wireless Financial Transactions
- by Manuel Acuna, IT Director, Lhuiller Group of Companies
3:15 - 3:45 --- Tea Break ---
3:45 - 4:15 Wireless Payment - what's the uptake?
- by Rec S. Babasa, Sr Mngr, Bus. Dev. Smart Communications, Inc.
4:15 - 4:30 Open Forum
4:30 - 5:00 Business Consultation

December 04, 2003, Thursday
Focus on Convergent Technologies

AM Programme
9:00 - 9:30 Registration
9:30 - 10:00 Convergent technologies making it affordable fro SMEs to do e-business
- by Arthur Tan, President, Integrated Microelectronics Inc.(IMI)
10:00-10:30 Making Wi-Fi Technology accessible to SMEs
- by Edmund R. Pike, Product Development Manager, PLDT
10:30-10:45 --- Tea Break ---
10:45-11:15 Mobility and Wireless solutions for the SMEs via portable & handheld computing devices
- by Paolo C. Lopez, Head-Bus.Dev. Globe Solutions
11:15-11:45 Hewlett Packard Philippines Inc. Presentation - by Jermyn 'Wowie' L. Wong, Market Development Manager, Personal Systems Group, HP Philippines Inc.
11:45-12:15 Panel Reaction/Open Forum
12:15-1:30 --- Lunch Break ---

PM Programme
1:30 - 2:00 Transforming the Internet Cafe into shared access and business solutions center
- by Raymond Ricafort, Pres., Digital Paradise Inc.
2:00 - 2:30 Making inventory management more efficient through automation
- by Antonio S. Darjuan Jr., PLDT
2:30 - 3:00 --- Tea Break ---
3:00 - 3:30 Sales automation using wireless & mobile technologies - by Christopher H. Cheng, Head-Technical & Wireless Applications, Globe Solutions
3:30 - 4:00 Open Forum
4:00 - 5:00 Business Consultation

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Biz Clips

Cafe Nescafe's Jamocha

WHENEVER you want a taste of Jamaican coffee, you don't have to go there because right here in Metro Manila, you can enjoy a concoction called Jamocha from Cafe Nescafe. A distinctively delicious recipe, Jamocha is a Caribbean espresso-based coffee with a hint of creme de cacao and chocolate syrup, added with steamed milk, a dollop of whipped cream, and dusted with cinnamon powder and a chocolate stick on the side. Jamocha is one of the signature Coffees of the World offered by Cafe Nescafe. Cafe Nescafe branches are located at the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell Center in Makati, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Naia Terminal 2, the City Lifestyle Bldg. along Timog Ave., QC, Robinsons Galleria and soon to open in Sta. Lucia Mall. Cafe Nescafe is operated by La Barista Inc. For comments and inquiries, visit www.NESCAFE.com.ph.

'Get Tempted' promo

PACIFIC Internet, the country's premiere Internet Service Provider, wants you to 'Get Tempted' with its hottest offer yet. New subscribers who sign up for a Pacific Internet Speed@ccess Dial-Up plan from Oct. 1 to Nov. 30 will automatically get 6 months subscription free. This means that the Monthly Service Fee (MSF) charges will be waived on the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th and 12th full months that they are with Pacific Internet. Pacific Internet will also be giving away the most enticing forbidden fruit of all - the Apple iMac G4, the fastest iMac ever made. Those who sign up during the promo period will get a raffle entry for a chance to win this Apple innovation. For more information call 918-5200.

Outdoor adventure promo

THE NORTH Face, one of the world's best brand of high-performance outerwear and gear, teams up with San Miguel Light for an outdoor adventure promo. The promo gives five free cans of San Mig Light beer, with a purchased North Face shirt as the sixth item in the pack. This promo is until today, available at Bratpack stores in the Greater Manila Area and at selected Toby's outlets. In keeping with San Mig Light's adventurous spirit, they are pleased to announce that the Enduro San Mig Light Adventure will soon conquer the Visayas region for its third and final leg.

Perfume-making seminar

LEARN how to make colognes and body spray through a one-day hands-on perfumery workshop/seminar by Chemworld, one of the largest importers of personal and household care ingredients in the country. Participants can choose from seminar schedules Dec. 2 or Dec. 5. Training starts at 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will be held at the Training Room of the Chemworld/Godiva office, 5th Floor Oppen Building, 349 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Investment is only P1,000, inclusive of handbook and fragrance kit. Participants and aspiring entrepreneurs will be taught how to blend their own colognes and body spray from popular scents and sell them for easy profits. For more details, call Catherine Alfalfara at 890-9844 to 47 local 14/38, 0917-8736547, 0917-8736548 or 0916-6902280.

Marriage enrichment

THE GALILEE Catholic Charismatic Community will hold a marriage encounter weekend at the St. Joseph Marello Retreat House, Tagaytay City starting Friday evening, Dec. 5 ending on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 7. The marriage encounter is designed to renew marriages by offering the chance for spouses to rediscover each other. The program has also been proven helpful in healing marriages on the rocks. For inquiries, please call or text Cris at 0917-8403052, Cora at 0917-5003961, or Jingle at 0917-8427896. All calls will be kept in strictest confidence.

Philips Most Outstanding Invention Award

PHILIPS Phils will present the Philips Most Outstanding Invention Award at this year's Department of Science and Technology (Dost) National Investors Week on Nov. 26 to 30 at the Philippine Trade Training Center in Pasay City. A total of P300,000 worth of cash and Philips products await the winners. The award is a testament to Philips' strong commitment to develop and support Filipino talent and reinforces Philip's reputation as a socially responsible corporate citizen.

Love, life and Lea

GRAB a copy of Mega's latest issue with Lea Salonga on the cover and get to know more about one of the country's pride. Mega magazine, a prestige publication of Mega Magazines & Publications Inc (MMPI), is available in leading bookstores and newsstands nationwide. For more information, call 631-2859.

Edsa Shangri-La treats

SATISFY your craving for something sweet, fresh and fruity during the Lobby Lounge's "Berries High Tea" available from 3 to 6 p.m., or choose from a sumptuous selection of prawn specials at Edsa Shangri-La's Summer Place. All this treats are being offered on its last day today. For inquiries and reservations, call 634-7373 or 633-8888 ext. 2738 and 2739.

Honda's last quarter blast

HONDA Cars Philippines Inc, has a year-end treat for all Civic buyers. Starting Nov. 16, great savings await Civic buyers as they have the chance to avail of special financing packages and treats, all in the spirit of the holidays. The choice is yours to avail of any of the great financing deals offered by Honda and participating banks, BPI Family Bank and RCBC savings bank. With a downpayment of as low as P92,000, one can avail the Civic 1.5 LXi M/T. Low net monthly installment plans are also available that goes for as low as P6,408 monthly stretched for 72 months at 50 percent downpayment. For more savings, the 0-interest plan is available at 12 or 18 monthly installments with only 30 to 40 percent downpayment. Chattle mortgage will also be given to those who shall avail of the 0-interest scheme at a 12-month financing term, absolutely free. Cash buyers can get special incentives as well. Beat the rush and get to your nearest Honda dealer now. For more, log on to www.hondaphil.com.

NOTICE TO THE MOTORING PUBLIC

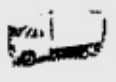
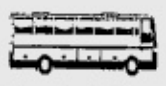
Pursuant to Presidential Decree (PD) 1894, notice is hereby given that the Philippine National Construction Corporation (PNCC), operator of the North Luzon Tollway and the South Luzon Tollway (Alabang to Calamba), filed a report/ statement with the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) relative to the current application of the Return-On-Rate Base formula for new toll rate adjustment in compliance with Section 9(a) thereof.

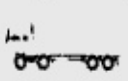
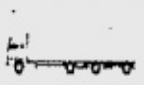
Based on Section 9 (b) of PD 1894, PNCC is publishing the hereunder new toll rates effective 01 January 2004. These new toll rates are presently being reviewed by the TRB.

Under Section 9(c) thereof, any interested expressways user shall have the right to file, within a period of 90 days from the herein publication, a petition with the Toll Regulatory Board for a review of the adjusted toll rates.

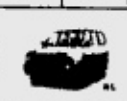
SOUTH LUZON TOLLWAY

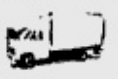
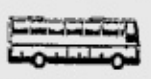
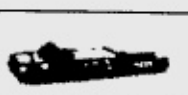
EXIT PTS.	ALABANG	FILINVEST	SUS HTS	SN PEDRO	SWOODS	CARMONA	MAMPLA	STA RITA	ABI	CALAMBA
CLASS 1 – Cars – Jeepneys – Pack-ups – Vans										
Filinvest	1.00									
Susana Hts.	3.00	3.00								
San Pedro	5.00	4.00	1.00							
Southwoods	7.00	7.00	4.00	3.00						
Carmona	9.00	8.00	5.00	4.00	1.00					
Mamplasan	10.00	10.00	7.00	6.00	3.00	2.00				
Sta. Rosa	12.00	11.00	9.00	8.00	5.00	4.00	2.00			
ABI/Greenfield	15.00	14.00	11.00	10.00	7.00	6.00	4.00	2.00		
Cabuyao	16.00	15.00	13.00	11.00	9.00	8.00	6.00	4.00	2.00	
Silangan	17.00	16.00	14.00	13.00	10.00	9.00	7.00	5.00	3.00	1.00
Calamba	21.00	20.00	17.00	16.00	13.00	12.00	10.00	9.00	6.00	5.00

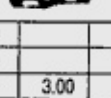
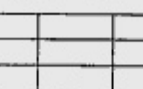
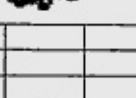
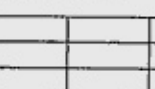
CLASS 2   – Light Trucks – Class 1 w/ Trailer – Tourist/School & Passenger Buses – Class 1 7 FL & above									
Filinvest	2.00								
Susana Hts.	7.00	5.00							
San Pedro	9.00	7.00	2.00						
Southwoods	15.00	13.00	8.00	6.00					
Carmona	17.00	15.00	10.00	8.00	2.00				
Mamplasan	21.00	19.00	14.00	12.00	6.00	4.00			
Sta. Rosa	24.00	22.00	17.00	15.00	9.00	7.00	3.00		
ABI/Greenfield	29.00	27.00	22.00	20.00	14.00	12.00	8.00	5.00	
Cabuyao	32.00	30.00	25.00	23.00	17.00	15.00	11.00	8.00	3.00	
Silangan	34.00	32.00	27.00	25.00	19.00	17.00	13.00	10.00	5.00	2.00
Calamba	41.00	40.00	34.00	32.00	26.00	24.00	20.00	17.00	12.00	9.00

CLASS 3   – Heavy and Multi-axled – Trucks / Trailers									
Filinvest	3.00								
Susana Hts.	10.00	8.00							
San Pedro	14.00	11.00	3.00						
Southwoods	22.00	20.00	12.00	8.00					
Carmona	26.00	23.00	15.00	12.00	3.00				
Mamplasan	31.00	29.00	21.00	18.00	9.00	6.00			
Sta. Rosa	36.00	34.00	26.00	23.00	14.00	11.00	5.00		
ABI/Greenfield	44.00	41.00	33.00	30.00	21.00	18.00	12.00	7.00	
Cabuyao	48.00	46.00	38.00	34.00	26.00	23.00	17.00	12.00	5.00	
Silangan	51.00	49.00	41.00	38.00	29.00	26.00	20.00	15.00	8.00	3.00
Calamba	62.00	59.00	52.00	48.00	40.00	36.00	31.00	26.00	18.00	14.00

NORTH LUZON TOLLWAY

EXIT PTS.	BWK	VAL	MEYC	MARILAO	BOCAUE	GUIGUINTO	STA.RITA	PULILAN	SN.SIMON	SN.FER	MEXICO	ANGELES	DAU
CLASS 1  – Cars – Jeepneys – Pack-ups – Vans													
Mapulang Lupa	3.00												
Valenzuela	3.00												
Lawang Bato	4.00	1.00											
Meycauayan	6.00	2.00											
St. Francis	6.00	3.00											
Marilao	7.00	4.00	2.00										
Bocaue	9.00	6.00	4.00	2.00									
Balagtas	12.00	9.00	6.00	5.00	3.00								
Guiguinto	13.00	10.00	7.00	6.00	4.00								
Tabang	14.00	11.00	9.00	7.00	5.00	1.00							
Sta. Rita	15.00	12.00	10.00	8.00	6.00								
Pulilan	19.00	15.00	13.00	11.00	9.00		4.00						
San Simon	25.00	21.00	19.00	17.00	15.00		9.00	6.00					
San Fernando	29.00	26.00	24.00	22.00	20.00		14.00	11.00	5.00				
Mexico	32.00	29.00	27.00	25.00	23.00		17.00	14.00	8.00	3.00			
Angeles	37.00	34.00	31.00	30.00	28.00		22.00	18.00	12.00	8.00	5.00		
Dau	38.00	35.00	33.00	31.00	29.00		23.00	20.00	14.00	9.00	6.00	1.00	
Sta. Ines	41.00	38.00	35.00	34.00	32.00		26.00	22.00	16.00	12.00	9.00	4.00	3.00

CLASS 2    – Light Trucks – Class 1 w/ Trailer – Tourist/School & Passenger Buses – Class 1 7 FL & above													
Mapulang Lupa	5.00												
Valenzuela	6.00												
Lawang Bato	9.00	2.00											
Meycauayan	11.00	5.00											
St. Francis	12.00	5.00											
Marilao	15.00	8.00	3.00										
Bocaue	19.00	12.00	7.00	4.00									
Balagtas	24.00	17.00	13.00	9.00	5.00								
Guiguinto	26.00	20.00	15.00	11.00	7.00								
Tabang	29.00	22.00	17.00	14.00	10.00	3.00							
Sta. Rita	30.00	24.00	19.00	16.00	12.00								
Pulilan	37.00	31.00	26.00	23.00	19.00		7.00						
San Simon	49.00	43.00	38.00	34.00	30.00		19.00	12.00					
San Fernando	58.00	52.00	47.00	44.00	40.00		28.00	21.00	9.00				
Mexico	65.00	59.00	54.00	50.00	46.00		35.00	28.00	16.00	7.00			
Angeles	74.00	68.00	63.00	59.00	55.00		44.00	37.00	25.00	16.00	9.00		
Dau	77.00	70.00	65.00	62.00	58.00		46.00	39.00	27.00	18.00	12.00	3.00	
Sta. Ines	82.00	76.00	71.00	67.00	63.00		52.00	45.00	33.00	24.00	17.00	8.00	5.00

CLASS 3     – Heavy and Multi-axled – Trucks / Trailers													
Mapulang Lupa	8.00												
Valenzuela	10.00												
Lawang Bato	13.00	3.00											
Meycauayan	17.00	7.00											
St. Francis	18.00	8.00											
Marilao	22.00	12.00	5.00										
Bocaue	28.00	18.00	11.00	6.00									
Balagtas	36.00	26.00	19.00	14.00	8.00								
Guiguinto	39.00	29.00	22.00	17.00	11.00								
Tabang	43.00	33.00	26.00	21.00	15.00	4.00							
Sta. Rita	45.00	36.00	29.00	23.00	17.00								
Pulilan	56.00	46.00	39.00	34.00	28.00		11.00						
San Simon	74.00	64.00	57.00	52.00	46.00		28.00	18.00					
San Fernando	87.00	78.00	71.00	65.00	59.00		42.00	32.00	14.00				
Mexico	97.00	88.00	81.00	75.00	69.00		52.00	41.00	24.00	10.00			
Angeles	111.00	101.00	94.00	89.00	83.00		66.00	55.00	37.00	24.00	14.00		
Dau	115.00	105.00	98.00	93.00	87.00		69.00	59.00	41.00	27.00	17.00		
Sta. Ines	123.00	113.00	106.00	101.00	95.00		78.00	67.00	49.00	36.00	26.00	12.00	8.00

PNCC Management

(PDI – November 30, 2003)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue
Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 743-8301
E-mail Address: www.doh.gov.ph

20 November 2003

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

1. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 4, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
2. Repair/Renovation of Budget Office, G/F, Bldg. No. 2, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
3. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 2 (2/F, Ceiling and Roofing), DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
4. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 13, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila

IFB NO. 2004-1-28(1)

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act of 2003 intends to apply the sum of *Three Million Four Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two & 85/100 Philippine Pesos (PhP3,494,732.85)*, chargeable against the funds of the different Services.
2. The Department of Health (DOH) thru the Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category "B" and registration of "Medium A" for Building and Industrial Plant for the projects.
   a. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 4, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
   b. Repair/Renovation of Budget Office, G/F, Bldg. No. 2, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
   c. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 2 (2/F, Ceiling and Roofing), DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila
   d. Repair/Renovation of Bldg. No. 13, DOH Cmpd., Sta. Cruz, Manila

The dates to be followed are:

	Schedule
1. Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractor's License)	December 1 to 5, 2003
2. Submission of duly accomplished Eligibility documents	December 10, 2003
3. Posting of eligible contractors	January 6, 2004
4. Issuance of Bid/Tender Documents	January 7 to 13, 2004
5. Pre-Bid Conference	January 16, 2004 @ 10:00 a.m.
6. Submission & Opening of Bids	January 28, 2004 @ 10:00 a.m.

3. Eligibility of prospective Bidders to participate will be based on compliance to eligibility requirements, using pass/fail non-discretionary criteria, as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), *The Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA)*, and is open to all organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. The process for eligibility check is described in Clause 12 Section II of the Instructions to Bidders. In accordance with the IRR of RA 9184, only those Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened and the Purchase Order (PO) awarded to the Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid, provided the Bidder concerned passes the post qualification process.
4. Interested Bidders who wish to inspect the Bidding Documents and obtain further information should contact the Procurement Division, 2nd Floor, Bldg. 26, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila, Telephone No. 711-6831 (DL)/743-8301 Local 3626/ 3627, from 8:00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders, from November 10 to 20, 2003, upon submission of a written application to the following address:

ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila

and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP 5,000.00). Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis.

6. Bids must be delivered not later than 10:00 A.M., on 28 January 2004, at the Health Human Resource Development Bureau (HHRDB) Conference Room, 3/F, Bldg. 12-A, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila.
7. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the Bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to issuance of Purchase Order (PO) without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and Chairperson

(PDI – November 22 & 30, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Ms. Vilma B. Gamella** whose picture appears below is no longer connected with Blues Brothers Inc. effective July 17, 2003.

Any transaction or representation made or entered into by **Ms. Vilma B. Gamella** after July 17, 2003 will not be honored and considered unauthorized. Her case is being reviewed and evaluated by the company in light of the filing of appropriate action against her.

(PDI – November 30, 2003)

CANADA NEEDS IMMIGRANTS

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Ilijan Combined Cycle Power Plant

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18th Floor, Citibank Tower
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel. : (632) 848-0231 to 39
Fax. : (632) 848-0014

ILIJAN SITE
1200MW Ilijan Power Plant
Brgy. Ilijan, Batangas City
Tel. : (043) 300-1111
Fax. : (043) 300-6705

INVITATION TO BID

KEPCO Ilijan Corporation (KEILCO), through the KEILCO Procurement Department (KEILCO-PD), invites all interested parties to participate in the one (1) lot bidding of the following on an "as is, where is basis":

Item No.	Desciption	QTY	U/M
1	600V Power and Control Cable 02 Cond 14 AWG D51-22	1,450	Ft.
2	600V, 2/C #14 AWG (2.5 MMSQ)	88,616	Ft.
3	300V 4 RTD #16 AWG (1.5 MMSQ), Shield Triad	1,222	Ft.
4	600V, 4/C #10 AWG (1.5 MMSQ), Shield Triad	10,538	Ft.
5	300V 1PR #16 AWG (1.5 MMSQ), Thermocouple Extension Cable Type Ex	42,893	Ft.
6	300V 1PR #16 AWG (1.5 MMSQ), Twisted Shield Pair	171,236	Ft.
7	5KV DHI Vulpren EPR 1x300 cu2 2.3mm	3,371	Ft.
8	500 1/C EP/HYP 600V DURA	1,575	Ft.
9	300V, 4PR #16 AWG (1.5mmsq), Thermocouple Extension Cable Type EX	5,110	Ft.
11	600V Control Cable #14 AWG 2C	10,662	Ft.
12	300V, Instrument Cable IPS 16 AWG 2C	7,820	Ft.
13	5kv, 1C-750kcmil (400 mmsq), 100% Insulation Shielded Flame Retardant Power Cable	9,570	Ft.
14	XL40, 16 AWG	350	Ft.
15	XLPE Instrument Cable 2 PR, 16 AWG 600V Type TC Decoron	400	Ft.
16	600V, 3/C #2/0 AWG (70 mmsq) w/ ground	500	Ft.
17	Low Voltage Power / Control / Instrument Cable	9,400	Ft.
18	Low Voltage Power /.Control / Instrument Cable D26-06 1/C 350 kcmil	3,300	Ft.
19	600V, 19/C #14 AWG (2.5 mmsq)	3,000	Ft.
20	1/C-500 kcmil Cable	2,800	Ft.
21	3C #2/0 AWG with Ground	900	Ft.
22	600V, 3/C #2 AWG (35 mmsq) with ground	1,500	Ft.
23	5kV DHI Vulpren EPR 1x400mm2	430	Ft.
24	Durasheat EP 500 AWG MCM 1/C 600V	500	Ft.
25	XLPE Control Cable, 19Cx14 AWG Type TC, 600V	750	Ft.
26	XLPE Instrument Cable, 6PRx16 AWG Type TC, 600V	1,050	Ft.
27	350 KCM 600V	1,000	Ft.
28	.75 MM Sized Cables	5,500	Ft.
29	Matro Cable	470	Ft.

Interested parties may submit their bid no later than 3:00 p.m. on December 15, 2003 and address the same to the attention of:

The Manager
Procurement Department
KEPCO Ilijan Corporation
18th Floor, Citibank Tower
8741, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

The Instruction to Bidders (ITB) are available for distribution starting November 24, 2003 during business hours and may be availed of at KEILCO's Manila Office by submitting your Letters of Intent and a refundable Bid Bond in the form of Cash or Manager's Check amounting to Php 16,000.00. The ITB may be obtained from Mr. Joong-Keun Oh. Procurement Manager, at KEILCO's Manila Office, extension 160.

All the items for bid may be inspected at KEILCO's Ilijan Site Office during business hours and may be coordinated with Mr. Bag-Woon Choi, Manager, Material Control Department, KEILCO Site Office, extension 131.

KEILCO's Procurement Department reserves the right to reject any or all Letters of Intent or bids without offering any reason; waive any defect or required formality therein; assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify a bidder for any expenses or losses that he/she/they may have incurred in the preparation of the Letter of Intent or bid or resulting from such preparation; and accept the bid which is deemed most responsive and advantageous to KEILCO.

For further inquiries, you may contact Mr. Rodrigo San Pedro Jr., Supervisor of Procurement Department at 02-848 0231 local 161.

(Sgd.) Jae-Pyo Choi
General Manager, Administration Group

(PDI--Nov. 23 & 30, 2003)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

He used to help repair people's lives; now he fixes cars

By Alexa H. Bacay

BUTCH Salvador was a pastor for 12 years before resigning to try his luck in sales. He tried selling everything from real estate to coffins.

But it was 1998, elections then, so everybody was waiting for the next thing to happen. Nobody wanted to invest or buy anything. With his electricity and phone line cut, he stayed at home with only P10 and some coins in an ashtray between him and starvation.

Then he read Napoleon Hills' book, "Think and Grow Rich," which told him to believe he was rich. And he did.

Following the book's prescriptions, he counted money even if he didn't have it yet. He believed he had a new car, and he had no debts to pay. He was so confident and at that moment, the idea behind Car Magic came to mind.

He didn't waste time and started to make leaflets. He asked his cousin to print it, then with the P10-peso bill, had it photocopied.

The coins in the ashtray brought Butch to Makro, where he distributed the leaflets. At night, he would call his mom from a neighbor's house to check if a prospective customer had inquired about his business. A certain Mrs. Panganiban from Mapayapa Village served as his *buena mano*.

Running low on funds, Butch urged his first customer to schedule her car immediately. So bringing along a friend who was a painter, the two set out for her house to check her car.

Butch had to ask for P500 in downpayment then rushed to a paint center to buy small quantities of masilla, thinner and paint.

With P80 left from the downpayment, he came back to Mrs. Panganiban's house and started the work on her car.

First customer

Things would have gone well, but the paint didn't match the car's original color. Butch had to rush back to the paint center to have another set mixed.

The problem was he only had P80 left, and his bill added up to P120. So Butch got a spare Nautica shirt from his car and told the paint mixer to keep it in case he doesn't pay back the remaining P40.

Butch then rushed back to the job site to finish the car, and Mrs. Panganiban was happy with the result.

When she paid the balance, Butch swore to himself, "I'll never run out of money again."

That first customer paved the way for Car Magic's success.

Car Magic's name came from Andrew Carnegie's magical formula, which tells one to believe in something and with faith, that something will come true.

After Mrs. Panganiban, Butch worked harder. For every payment he received, part of it went to making more leaflets and distributing it to motorists. Butch could be seen walking with cigarette vendors along Katipunan Ave. and Libis, distributing leaflets.

He was able to advertise his business in a magazine, and soon, somebody approached him for a franchise. Then a radio station became interested in the business and had it featured in a show.

Home service

Car Magic targets the A and B markets who want their cars to look good but don't have the time to bring their cars to the motor shop. Car Magic solves the problem by providing one-day home service.

"Our selling point is the one-day home service. Compared with the others, our price is lower and yet we give very good service and we use quality materials," says Butch.

Car Magic staff usually arrive at the job site at 9:30 in the morning and finish the job by 5 in the afternoon.

There was a time when a friend of Butch's rammed their family car into a post. He immediately sought Butch's help to have the car fixed before his mom discovered it. The next day, Car Magic came to their house to fix the damage, and before the client's mother even woke up, they had it fixed and left no trace of dents and scratches.

Three important things keep Car Magic going. First is Salvador's desire to make it work. It is his dream and he wants it to be successful. Second is their customers.

"We are patronized by our clients because we give quality service. We give them convenience," says Butch.

Third is honesty.

"That's another thing. If you leave your car, and you have valuable stuff inside, believe me, *walang mawawala dyan*. My people would not touch it. They are trained that way," assures Butch.

Old cars

Car Magic sticks to 10-year-old cars because older cars are made of harder materials. Car Magic also does not choose car brands. Butch says he even had a client who owned an armored car.

The company is open for franchising. Car Magic currently has four franchises in Quezon City A and B, Parañaque and Pasig. Requirement include an office, a vehicle and a phone line.

BUTCH Salvador had P10 between him and starvation when he struck on a brilliant idea.

"*Yun ang pusod ng negosyo e*. Since we're home service, people have to call you up," explains Butch.

And like other industries, there are people who think that they can just copy Car Magic's idea and be just as successful.

Butch, however, says that he keeps some business secrets to himself, so whoever tries to steal ideas would be left wanting.

Butch chose this business because he saw the need for it. Majority of cars today have dents and scratches on them but owners wouldn't even bother to have them fixed. For one, they don't have time. And secondly they don't trust leaving their cars anymore just to have the dents and scratches removed.

"*Ang daming kalokohan na nangyayari. Nagkakapalitan ng* parts," reveals Butch. "Another thing, *ginagamit yung kotse mo*. Check your mileage the next day, *bawas na yon*. People don't want to trust anymore. They say that unless you do it at our house, maybe we'll trust you.

(For inquiries on Car Magic's services, call 948-1874 or 0917-835-3100)

New player . . .

From page B3

Tel or Panasonic GD75 when you subscribe to Plan 1000 or Panasonic GD55 or Sony Ericsson T200 when you subscribe to Plan 2000. A subscription to Plan 3500 gives you the trendy Ericsson T300.

What's more, prepaid phonekits are available at affordable prices. A prepaid phonekit is yours for as low as P3,690.

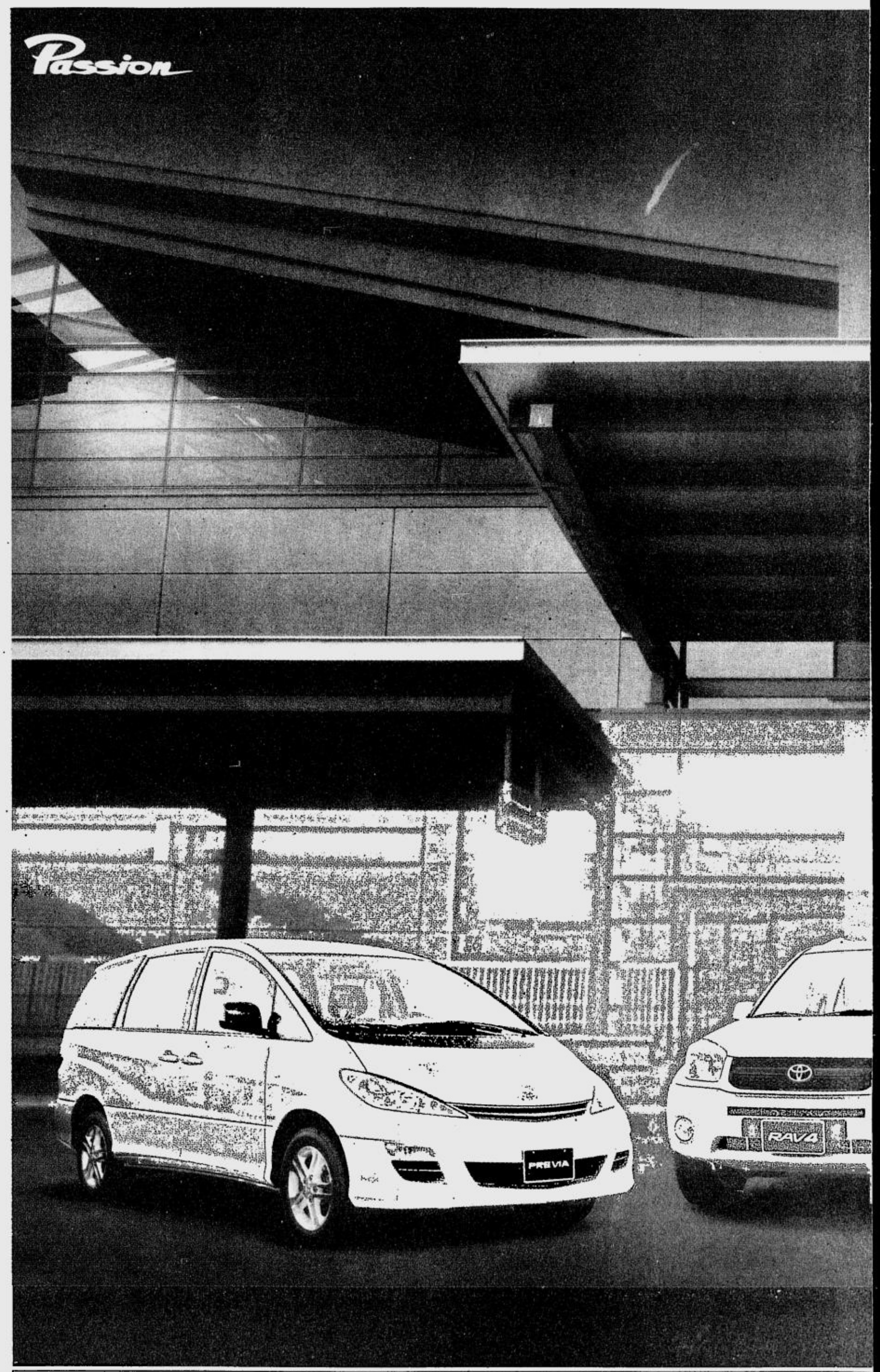
You also have the chance to own your dream phone unit without spending a fortune as "Sun Blast" offers up to 60 percent discounts on choice handsets. And you will get free gifts for every handset purchase. As if these were not enough, registration fees are waived across all Sun Cellular plans.

"Sun Blast" also offers a whole explosion of prizes in an exciting raffle promo. A trip for two to Hawaii, Bangkok or Hong Kong, a home theater system, Playstation 2, CD Walkman, color TV, refrigerators and mobile phones await lucky winners.

Experience "Sun Blast" in the following venues nationwide: Shangri-la Plaza Mall, Festival Mall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Dasmariñas, Robinsons Iloilo, Porta Vaga in Baguio, JY Square Discovery Mall in Lahug, Cebu and Gaisano Mall in Davao.

A blast of good music from the country's top performing bands and music artists will headline "Sun Blast" at Shangrila Mall's Streetscape every Friday and Saturday beginning Nov. 28 to Dec. 20.

For updates and details, please visit Sun Cellular's website at www.suncellular.com or call the Sun Cellular hotline at 395-800.



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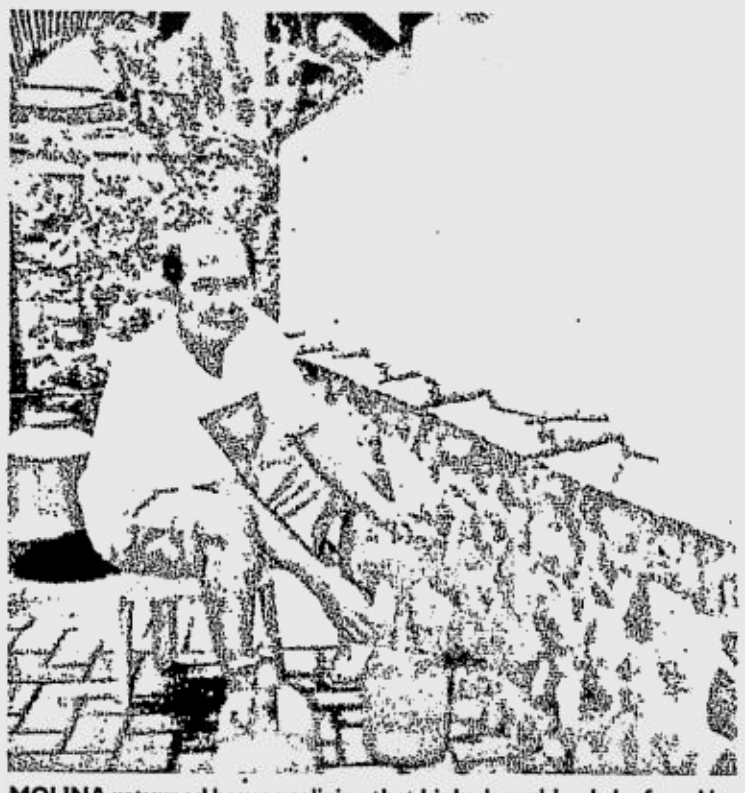
Ex-OFW gets financial taste of 'suka'



MOLINA returned home realizing that his luck could only be found in his native town of Daraga. PHOTOS BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA, PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

DARAGA, Albay—For almost 20 years, the homemade "suka" industry in the province of Albay has been dormant because local entrepreneurs concentrated on the more financially rewarding handicraft, *pili* and bonsai plant ventures. But finding no luck in his various employment stints drove Rafael Montallana to revive his family's homemade *suka* business, and he made good.

"In 1950s, this town was known for *tuba*, *lambanog* and homemade suka. Only a few now know that all these ethnic products existed here and perhaps, were the most popular then. My late grandfather Esteban Montallana became very popular here because of this business," Montallana says.

The scenic town of Daraga was known for massive production of *abaca* and *copra*. Thus, a large volume of coconut juice had become available for making tuba, lambanog and homemade suka.

Homemade suka is natural vinegar, which is made entirely from the tuba extracted from the coconut.

It undergoes a period of fermentation and storage. No other ingredient or preservative is added.

Montallana adds that even people from other provinces in the Bicol Region came to visit their town just to buy the products.

"Eventually, my parents managed the business after Lolo Teban died, and with God's help it became a fortune for us since all of my siblings were able to graduate from college," he claims.

Fortune in suka

Montallana discloses that it was in the late '90s that he decided to revive the old family business.

From the '70s to late '80s, he had worked as an employee in Manila. His income was not enough for his family so he worked in Saudi Arabia as an electrician.

But after two years of what he considered as "survival of the fittest," he returned home, realizing that his luck could only be found in his native town of Daraga.

He was right.

"I came to realize that my family then was able to survive on producing and selling homemade suka. So, without hesitation, I decided that it was high time that I should go back to the old family business."

Soon, people all over the region have once again come to know of his family's homemade suka, which is natural and pure.

"There are businessmen and tourists from Naga and Sorsogon who would visit my residence just to buy suka," he says.

Montallana adds that there are buyers who would bring his product to Manila.

"Some of my customers told me that aside from the usual *pasalubong* like pili nut candies, *pinangat* and bags made from abaca, homemade suka has become part of their lists," he says.

With increased demand for his suka, Montallana does not only produce by the small bottles or gallons but also by barrels now.

But Montallana said he sells it for less than the original price to those who also sell his product to local stores.

Quality

Montallana admits that he has to experiment once again since he has found some "missing vital steps in the procedure" in making suka, especially in getting the right taste.

He reiterates that fermentation and stocking require a very long period just to make sure the suka has the quality taste.

It takes a minimum of three months up to six months before one can savor the natural taste of it.

Just like the processes involved in making the ethnic red wine, homemade suka requires maximum exposure in extensive natural fermentation, proper bottling and long duration of stocking for there's lot of residue and sediments that might affect the product's taste.

"Perhaps, the number one problem here is the tuba. If it's rainy season, automatically there's no stock of suka. In addition, only few farmlands here produce tuba, which I buy to make the suka. We have a small farmland in Sumlang, Camalig but the production of tuba in that place is very limited, too," Montallana says.

His other problem is that there are producers that sell low-quality tuba, which results in the poor taste of suka.

"There are times that the demand is very high but the supply and production are very low. So, I have to reject other orders or sometimes, I have to explain to them that it will take another six months or even a year to make it," Montallana says.

To find solution to the low-quality tuba, Montallana made an agreement with the farmers that if the tuba is of poor quality, he will have to return it to them, since he doesn't want to compromise and even sacrifice the taste that his homemade suka has been known for.

Supply problem

To solve the supply problem, he sees to it that he maintains barrels of reserved suka in his stock room.

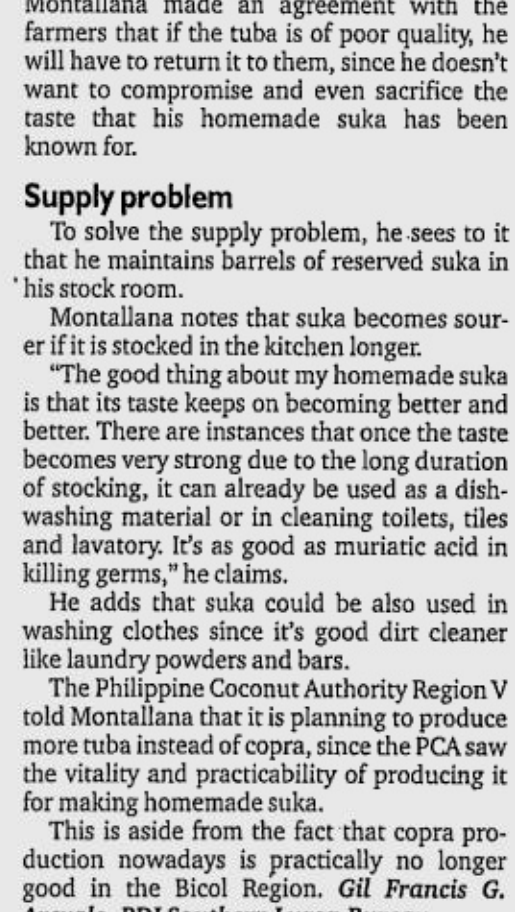
Montallana notes that suka becomes sourer if it is stocked in the kitchen longer.

"The good thing about my homemade suka is that its taste keeps on becoming better and better. There are instances that once the taste becomes very strong due to the long duration of stocking, it can already be used as a dishwashing material or in cleaning toilets, tiles and lavatory. It's as good as muriatic acid in killing germs," he claims.

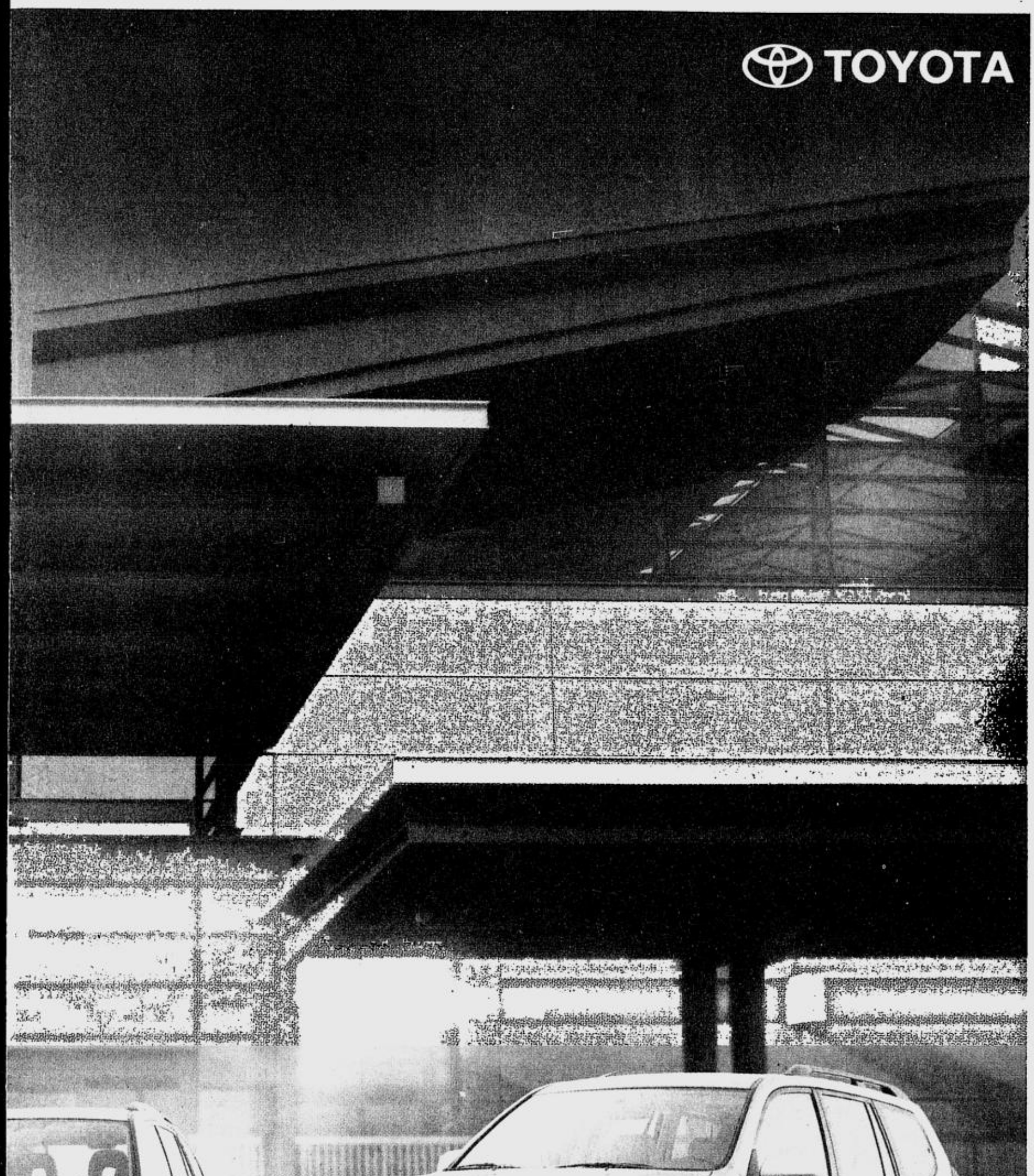
He adds that suka could be also used in washing clothes since it's good dirt cleaner like laundry powders and bars.

The Philippine Coconut Authority Region V told Montallana that it is planning to produce more tuba instead of copra, since the PCA saw the vitality and practicability of producing it for making homemade suka.

This is aside from the fact that copra production nowadays is practically no longer good in the Bicol Region. ***Gil Francis G. Arevalo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***



RAFAEL Molina's homemade suka, which is made from the tuba extracted from the coconut.



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G/F Edsa Guadalupe
138m² P290/m² Call 882-4641

SAN JUAN

G/F Edsa G'Hills
224m² P300/m² Call 726-4371

HOUSE

MANILA

DEL PAN STA ANA MLA 5310471

MANDALUYONG

Ghills 5BrPool 120T 7247349

QUEZON CITY

2BR 1TB CarCrg Zabarte North Olympus 939-4124

Proj4 2BR Bung 4220057

VILLA ESPANA SUBD 3sty 4BR 3TB grge 0916-5417389

BAGUIO

Transients 3BR Ful Furn 454-7973•0916-3630000

CONDO/TWNHSE

BNEW 2 BR (180sqm) CONDO 32/F SALCEDO PARK TOWER I For more info call 8403771 Look for Sharon

CONDO/TWNHSE

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APT/CONDO W/GARAGE PACO MANILA TEL 563-6296

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4361389

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3BR, 1TB w/ tel. line near St. Scho and CSB Call 5310637

Nr LA SALLE 9T 09195162077

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QUEZON CITY

CUBAO P3.8 LADY 9124428

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SAN JUAN

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Coml-Alab 8621443/0919-7036464

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

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CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

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CONDO Sale / Rent Ortigas 50m² 0927-2995505

OTHER REAL ESTATE

REALTORS/SEMINAR

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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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Civic LXI Dec96 40Tkm P310K owner-driven 9217987

ISUZU

Fuego LS2000 Silver Gray All Power Casa Maintain Armakoated 480K Neg 413-4995 or 0917-8914348

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'78 MB Stretch Limo white Automatic 250D 350T 8 2 5 9 5 6 4

85 525i Exc P165T 9217987

BENZ 260E P495T 0927-3168891 / 371-7026

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94 Gal SS 1-0 magic P250T A-1 con paint 9971991

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'93 Toyota Coaster 28 seater 500T 8259564

95CrlaXE FreshUSver 220T 7767507

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'98 Pregio Van 250T 8259564

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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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1.5% Fast Car Loan 3677523/24

1.5% CARLOAN 373-6519

1.5% CARLOAN 788-0357

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1.5% w/o Taking Car 6567685

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CAR LOAN

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732001-82

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

XEROX 4 SALE 8974629

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

23T New Compit SR Imptd 7767507

BUY/SELL

EDUCATION PLAN 8061574

EDUCATION PLANS 7137284

GARAGE SALE

Garage Sale Nov. 29 & 30 (Sat. & Sun.) 9:30AM #3 Ponce St., San Lorenzo Village Makati

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OFC MKTG STF 09193352395 KC

OFC MKTNG STF 09208062187

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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19th FCI & 311TH PCCI ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
RIVERBANKS CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2003
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
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(Uruguay)
Mr. H Pizzorno
(Uruguay)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
As per AO # 32 S2000 of the Department of Agriculture Exhibitors are required to bring the updated vaccination records of their dogs duly certified by a Veterinarian with an updated PRC license and PTR.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

The following Novena must be said nine times a day for nine consecutive days: "O, Holy St. Jude Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinsman to Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart, I humbly beg your great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and most urgent need. In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke thy aid."

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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INT'L COMPANY LOOKING FOR BUSINESS BUILDERS 5513118 / 09196876266

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936-1426 / 937-2622

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Mr. Edgar C. Soriano, Mr. Edilberto L. Casimiro aka "Dong Lapuz", Mr. Jerry A. Soriano** and **Ms. Imelda L. Mendoza** whose pictures appear below are no longer connected with SALON 831 effective Nov. 28, 2003.

Edgar C. Soriano

Edilberto L. Casimiro

Jerry A. Soriano

Imelda L. Mendoza

Please be informed that all transactions entered into by **Edgar C. Soriano, Edilberto L. Casimiro, Jerry A. Soriano** and **Imelda L. Mendoza** for and in behalf of SALON 831 are under review and evaluation by the company and its owners in the light of criminal and civil charges to be filed against them.

(PDI–Nov. 30, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City Tel. No.: 928-4501 to 09
Cable Address: "Philcoa" P.O. Box 3386, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bidding the property described below.

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF PROPERTY
17,332 Square Meters with improvements under TCT No. 20592 of the Registry of Deeds for San Pablo City	Barangay San Ignacio, San Pablo City, Province of Laguna

Bid documents shall be available upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) at the Office of the Secretariat, PCA Real Property Disposal and Appraisal Committee, 2nd Floor PCAR & D Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City from **December 1-8, 2003.**

Sealed bid proposals shall be submitted and dropped at the Bid Box located at the Office of the Secretariat before the scheduled opening of bids on **December 10, 2003** at 2:00 p.m.

Sealed bid proposals shall be opened in the presence of the participating bidders at the Executive Lounge, 8th Floor R & D Building, Diliman, Quezon City.

The sale of the property shall be on "As Is, Where Is" basis.

PCA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any defect or informality therein and to accept such bid proposals considered advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSEFEL P. GRAGEDA**
Acting Chairman
PCA Real Property Disposal & Appraisal Committee

(PDI - Nov. 29, 30 & Dec. 1, 2003)

WANTED PROPERTY For IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY

- Metro Manila
- 7,000 sqm. min. to 1-2 has.
- Along major road, preferably crossroad
- High pedestrian & vehicular traffic
- Within densely populated area
- Long-term lease of 15 to 20 years

Please submit:
- *Lot plan and vicinity map*
- *Lease rate offer*

To:
Ms. Karen Villanueva
P.O. Box no. 465
Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City
1109

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW Consign 09167940002

SINGAPOREAN looking for partners to develop new industry with patented technology 0927-4936266

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

The corporate term of Collective Communications, Inc. has been shortened to three years ending on November 27, 2003 through a resolution approved by majority of the members of its board of directors in a meeting duly called for the purpose and ratified by stockholders representing 2/3 of its outstanding capital stock. Wherefore, the corporation is deemed dissolve as of said date and business operations shall cease forthwith.

(Sgd.) **Christine Y. Salvacion**
Acting Corporate Secretary

(PDI–Nov. 23, 30 & Dec. 7, 2003)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

1999 Hyundai Starex Van/WJP-152
1997 Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6/URU-573
1996 Mercedes Benz/UPY-565
2000 Ford Lynx/WNN-358

For particulars, call Philam Ins. Co., Inc.
Dick Cariño, Tel. # 878-54-57

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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio Philippines Tel No (632) 812-6209
PNOC The Energy Company

INVITATION TO BID
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC) invites all interested bidders to bid for the lease of the following PNOC properties:

Description and Location of Property	TCT No.	Area (sq.m.)	Minimum Bid
1. Vacant Lot Juan Luna Ave. cor. A. Soriano Ave. (within North Reclamation) Area) Cebu City	7016	1,026	P97,000/month
2. Vacant Lot Poblacion, Lingayen Pangasinan	195481	1,019	P29,000/month

Bid forms, bidding guidelines, terms and conditions can be secured during office hours of **December 1-15, 2003** from the Disposal Committee Secretariat, 2nd Floor, Estate Management Department, PNOC Bldg. 6, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, M.M.

A pre-bidding conference shall be conducted on **January 14, 2004.**

Award of the lease of the above properties shall be based on the ***BEST OFFER/PROPOSAL*** received from the bidders.

The bidder further acknowledges that he/she has been given every opportunity to investigate, inspect and verify the properties offered for lease to ascertain the actual conditions thereof as well as the status of the titles.

PNOC reserves the right to reject any and all bid offers/proposals or to waive any formality thereto and/or to accept any such bids or portion of bids as may be advantageous to PNOC.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.**
Chairman
Committee for the Disposal/Utilization of PNOC Real Estate Properties

(PDI – Nov. 28 & 29 & 30, 2003)

www.henrybutcher.com

On-Line Internet Auction Sale

Surface Mount Assembly Lines
Located: LISP, Laguna, Philippines

SURFACE MOUNT ASSEMBLY LINES
PANASONIC FA M5H2 Chip Shooter; QUAD QSP-2 Chip Shooter; PHILIPS 2000 FCM II Chip Shooter; (2) PANASONIC MKILL Chip Shooters; PHILIPS 2000 PA2727/00 Carrier Adjustment Tool; PHILIPS 2000 PA2726/00 Carrier Kit; A Qty. of Transfer Conveyors and Asstd. Feeders.
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TEST EQUIPMENT
GENRAD 2286e ICI Tester; HEWLETT PACKARD 54645A Oscilloscope; Asstd. Microscopes
PLANT SERVICES
(2) KAISER SIGMA SK19 Compressors w/ KRD 100 Air Dryers; RESYS Water Recovery System

Bid Closing 6pm Wednesday 3rd December 2003

For further particulars, viewing & bidding details please contact: Obert Cinco - Tel.: 63 2 852 2910

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HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

11th Floor Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Bidding Committee shall conduct a public bidding for the sale of the following acquired residential properties on December 22, 2003, MONDAY, 2:00 PM at 8th Flr Pacific Center Bldg. San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City:

PROP NO.	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO.	AREA LOT/FLOOR	MINIMUM BID
1	BLK 05 LOT 50 CAMELLA HOMES BARCELONA 3 BO TANZANG LUMA IMUS CAVITE	T-1012157	77 00/40 00	537,469 84
2	BLK 42 LOT 20 CARISSA HOMES EAST 1 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110955	32 00/10 00	154,506 70
3	BLK 79 LOT 16 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110961	32 00/10 00	158,764 38
4	BLK 04 LOT 06 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110958	42 00/20 62	176,941.30
5	BLK 12 LOT 17 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110150	63 00/20 62	240,622 18
6	BLK 58 LOT 29 CARISSA HOMES EAST 2 BO BAGUMBAYAN TERESA RIZAL	M-110690	45 00/16 00	167,990 70
7	BLK 01 LOT 04 CARISSA HOMES NORTH 5C BO. STO. CRISTO, SJDM, BULACAN	T-35287 P(M)	55 00/20 62	238,548 23
8	BLK 23 LOT 40 CARISSA HOMES NORTH 6 BRGY STO CRISTO SJDM, BULACAN	T-385805(M)	45 00/20 62	189,754 56
9	BLK 18 LOT 20 CARISSA HOMES TANZA PH4 BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-683657	61 00/20 62	246,036.13
10	BLK 05 LOT 09 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-687183	35 00/20 62	175,317.10
11	BLK 20 LOT 19 PH3B CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA, CAVITE	T-884354	35 00/20 62	176,353.60
12	BLK 15 LOT 24 PH6 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA, CAVITE	T-884352	33 00/18 00	199,417.17
13	BLK 03 LOT 10 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-884349	35 00/20 62	176,353 00
14	BLK 40 LOT 57 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-884350	33 00/18 00	186,163 77
15	BLK 73 LOT 46 PH6 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA, CAVITE	T-913090	33 00/18 00	181,190 61
16	BLK 147 LOT 26 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-911933	33 00/18 00	184,308 65
17	BLK 141 LOT 48 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-913092	33 00/18 00	200,425 00
18	BLK 104 LOT 40 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO PUNTA TANZA CAVITE	T-913089	33 00/18 00	187,218 86
19	BLK 06 LOT 22 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-944537	69 00/20 62	288,342 58
20	BLK 17 LOT 22 PH4 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-694694	61 00/20 62	246,036 13
21	BLK 135 LOT 39 PH7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-953823	33 00/18 00	197,604 64
22	BLK 44 LOT 08 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-661411	42 00/20 62	198,330 39
23	BLK 11 LOT 34 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-661268	35 00/20 62	172,497 82
24	BLK 08 LOT 26 PH2 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980395	35 00/20 62	173,654 47
25	BLK 26 LOT 26 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980401	54 00/20 62	231,142 58
26	BLK 34 LOT 10 PH3B CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980398	54 00/20 62	229,306 19
27	BLK 29 LOT 02 PH3B CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980399	79 00/20 62	286,016 68
28	BLK 08 LOT 20 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980404	53 50/20 62	242,061 28
29	BLK 16 LOT 02 PH3A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980403	55 50/20 62	237,890 44
30	BLK 08 LOT 17 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980412	35 00/20 62	173,254 47
31	BLK 15 LOT 20 PH5 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980400	61 00/20 62	246,036 13
32	BLK 08 LOT 28 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980393	35 00/20 62	173,254 47
33	BLK 46 LOT 04 PH1A CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980794	35 00/20 62	169,837 15
34	BLK 34 LOT 16 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980402	58 50/20 62	246,269 84
35	BLK 02 LOT 08 PH3 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980397	35 00/20 62	190,450 00
36	BLK 34 LOT 27 PH4 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-980411	35 00/20 62	171,707 62
37	BLK 28 LOT 22 PH 5 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1001925	35 00/20 62	175,653 60
38	BLK 31 LOT 46 PH 4 CARISSA HOMES BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036911	35 00/20 62	168,750 00
39	BLK 163 LOT 04 PH 7 CARISSA HOMES TANZA BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036914	33 00/18 00	184,650 48
40	BLK 72 LOT 06 CARISSA HOMES PH 2 BO BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036909	35 00/20 62	175,809 80
41	BLK 40 LOT 28 CARISSA HOMES TANZA P6 BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1035461	33 00/18 00	180,436 97
42	BLK 40 LOT 11 CARISSA HOMES TANZA P6 BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1035462	33 00/18 00	191,938.71
43	BLK 42 LOT 10 CH TANZA P38 BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-1036550	35 00/20 62	175,254 91
44	BLK 08 LOT 10 CH-BERMUDA 2B BO BANLIC CABUYAO LAGUNA	T-520063	50 00/25 00	255,020 35
45	BLK 32 LOT 10 LA POBLACION PH IC BO PARTIDA MUZON SJDM, BULACAN	T-347627(M)	42 00/22 00	223,268 78
46	BLK 10 LOT 04 LA POBLACION 3B BO PARTIDA, MUZON, SJDM, BULACAN	T-363763(M)	64 00/29 00	290,835.78
47	BLK 08 LOT 01 LA POBLACION IC PARTIDA MUZON SAN JOSE DEL MONTE BULACAN	T-285533(M)	38 00/22 00	226,956 93
48	BLK 72 LOT 17 CH LA TRINIDAD 3 BO QUINTANA TRECE MARTIRES CITY	T-62954	70 00/25 00	386,853 89
49	BLK 10 LOT 30 LANDMASS PARK SUBDIVISION BO BIGA TANZA CAVITE	T-1048016	40 00/21 60	257,558 32
50	BLK 08 LOT 37 NORTHRIDGE BO. STO CRISTO, SJDM. BULACAN	T-363764(M)	44 00/36 00	269,757 58
51	BLK 07 LOT 16 NORTHWINDS CITY 3B BRGY STO CRISTO SJDM BULACAN	T-272665(M)	79 00/25 00	369,400 60
52	BLK 22 LOT 09 NORTHWIND CITY 3B BO STO CRISTO SJDM BULACAN	T-413035(M)	87 00/25 00	395,889 60
53	BLK 23 LOT 33 SAN MARINO CENTRAL BO SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1001923	50 00/20 00	258,126.73
54	BLK 24 LOT 20 SAN MARINO CENTRAL BO SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048013	50 00/28 00	278,656 00
55	BLK 13 LOT 17 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1036913	35 00/20 62	202,560 85
56	BLK 19 LOT 20 PH 2 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1012158	35 00/20 62	208,084.41
57	BLK 14 LOT 36 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1012161	35 00/20 62	203,227 05
58	BLK 11 LOT 35 PH I SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1012159	35 00/20 62	219,683 04
59	BLK 06 LOT 38 PH I SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048017	35 00/20 62	204,582 15
60	BLK 01 LOT 07 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048012	35 00/20 62	195,222.77
61	BLK 04 LOT 08 PH 3 SAN MARINO WEST BRGY SALAWAG DASMARINAS CAVITE	T-1048014	35 00/20 62	204,562 15
62	BLK 09 LOT 30 SOLAR URBAN HOMES NORTH DEPARO RD .BO BAGUMBONG CAL	C-344443	47 00/36 00	306,964 00
63	BLK 06 LOT 04 PH 2 STA CECILIA VILLAGE 2 BRGY JULUGAN TANZA CAVITE	T-1036912	82 00/00	248,050 00
64	BLK 04 LOT 02A SUNRISE VILLAGE I BRGY MARINIG CABUYAO LAGUNA	T-519127	94 00/00	162,808 00
65	BLK 30 LOT 22 TIERRA NEVADA 1 BO SAN FRANCISCO GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-987850	55 00/26 19	328,146 45
66	BLK 19 LOT 05 WILLOW BEND BRGY PINAGKUARTELAN PANDI BULACAN	T-363767(M)	37 00/18 00	192,870 72
67	BLK 15 LOT 31 WILLOW BEND BRGY PINAGKUARTELAN PANDI BULACAN	T-359635(M)	37 00/18 00	194,306 40
68	BLK 32 LOT 24 WOODBRIDGE BRGY POBLACION PANDI BULACAN	T-353668(M)	42 00/20 00	190,082 56
69	BLK 64 LOT 07 WOODBRIDGE BRGY POBLACION PANDI BULACAN	T-353669(M)	42 00/20 00	189,245 15
70	BLK 01 LOT 17/18 SEC 33 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-605194/95	107 60/20 16	309,509 60
71	BLK 02 LOT 15 SEC 34 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS I BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	605342	39 60/20 16	159,801.14
72	BLK 02 LOT 56/57 SEC 32 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS PH I BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVIT	T-604489/604490	79 20/20 16	249,627 22
73	BLK 04 LOT 15/17 SEC 35 BELLEVIEW MEADOWS I BRGY BAGTAS TANZA CAVITE	T-615353/615355	83 60/20 16	250,075 64
74	BLK 01 LOT 03 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672346-A	38 50/20 12	265,681 57
75	BLK 01 LOT 100/101 SEC 10 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES PH I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA	T-674036/39	77 00/20 12	320,057 58
76	BLK 01 LOT 11 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672914-A	38 50/20 12	204,193 46
77	BLK 01 LOT 115 & 116 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-674054/53	84 00/20 12	342,125 99
78	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665898	38 50/20 12	211,681.57
79	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 09 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES III BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVI	T-732656	36 00/20 12	194,356 45
80	BLK 01 LOT 13/15 SEC 02 BELVEDERE TOWNE II SUBD BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVI	T-666567/69	77 00/20 12	329,710 62
81	BLK 01 LOT 14 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672917A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
82	BLK 01 LOT 15 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672918	38 50/20 12	212,621 97
83	BLK 01 LOT 26 & 28 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672929/31	77 00/20 12	339,315 20
84	BLK 01 LOT 30 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667024	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
85	BLK 01 LOT 36 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666790	38 50/20 12	211,681.57
86	BLK 01 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667003/031	77 00/20 12	333,433 38
87	BLK 01 LOT 46 & 47 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673994A/995A	77 00/20 12	321 265 99
88	BLK 01 LOT 86/87 ESC 10 BELVEDERE I SUBD BRGY QUINTANA, TANZA CAVITE	T-674024/674025	77 00/20 12	319 046 92
89	BLK 01 LOT 92 & 93 SEC 10 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-674030-A/031A	77 00/20 12	321,205 99
90	BLK 02 LOT 01 & 02 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672945A/944A	80 50/20 12	331,605 99
91	BLK 02 LOT 02 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673642	38 50/20 12	221,025 86
92	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 02 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665602	38.50/20 12	205 554 23
93	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667042	38 50/20 12	203,158 31
94	BLK 02 LOT 09 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673649A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
95	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665039	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
96	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673404	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
97	BLK 02 LOT 17 SEC 01 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667352	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
98	BLK 02 LOT 21 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672964A	38 50/20 12	211,309 98
99	BLK 02 LOT 25 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665941	38 50/20 12	211,681.57
100	BLK 02 LOT 27 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-665943	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
101	BLK 03 LOT 03 BELVEDERE IIA BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-822584	38 50/20 12	211,681.57
102	BLK 03 LOT 20 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673003-A	38 50/20 12	206,678 28
103	BLK 03 LOT 31/33 SEC 05 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES PH I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA C	671135/671134	77 00/20 12	336,118 41
104	BLK 03 LOT 35 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667109	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
105	BLK 03 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666872/674	77 00/20 12	332,809 37
106	BLK 04 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673682/84	75 00/20 12	333,355 20
107	BLK 04 LOT 06 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673685A	38 50/20 12	212,472 88
108	BLK 04 LOT 11 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673034-A	38 50/20 12	203,537 47
109	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667130	38 50/20 12	208,181 62
110	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671163	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
111	BLK 04 LOT 35 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666909	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
112	BLK 04 LOT 49 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732959	36 00/20 12	192,427.11
113	BLK 05 LOT 01 & 02 SEC 04 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670786/787	80 50/20 12	330,520 67
114	BLK 05 LOT 06 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667160	38 50/20 12	211 681.57
115	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 04 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667162	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
116	BLK 05 LOT 10 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666924	38.50/20.12	209,946 14
117	BLK 05 LOT 11 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673539A	38 50/20 12	202,792 02
118	BLK 05 LOT 23 & 25 SEC 02 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667502/504	77 00/20 12	323,664 27
119	BLK 05 LOT 28 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673081A	38 50/20 12	258,122 80
120	BLK 05 LOT 28 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732989	36 00/20 12	192 078 09
121	BLK 05 LOT 30 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672533A	38 50/20 12	211,039 66
122	BLK 05 LOT 32 SEC 02 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666731	38 50/20 12	211,681.57
123	BLK 05 LOT 33 SEC 02 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666732	39 00/20 12	213,171 57
124	BLK 05 LOT 33 SEC 03 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-667789	38 50/20 12	200,681 17
125	BLK 05 LOT 36 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732997	36 00/20 12	193,998 03
126	BLK 05 LOT 43 & 44 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN.TRIAS C	T-733004/005	72 00/20 12	302,471 66
127	BLK 06 LOT 05 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666013	36 00/20.12	197,280.18
128	BLK 06 LOT 09 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666963	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
129	BLK 06 LOT 17 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671234	37 00/20 12	209 652 80
130	BLK 06 LOT 24 SEC 03 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666976	38 50/20 12	203,033 49
131	BLK 06 LOT 27 SEC 06 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-732369	36 00/20 12	194 211 02
132	BLK 06 LOT 30 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672573A	38 50/20 12	208,036 19
133	BLK 07 LOT 04 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673147-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
134	BLK 07 LOT 08 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673151A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
135	BLK 07 LOT 08 SEC 10 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-733039	36 00/20 12	194,511.57
136	BLK 07 LOT 14 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673769A	38 50/20 12	194 870 41
137	BLK 07 LOT 34 SEC 06 BELVEDERE III BRGY PASONG KAWAYAN GEN.TRIAS CAVITE	T-732416	36 00/20 12	192 002 17
138	BLK 08 LOT 01 & 03 SEC 08 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673579-A/581	80 50/20 12	331,695 99
139	BLK 08 LOT 15 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672638A	38 50/20 12	209,781 32
140	BLK 08 LOT 28 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673200-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
141	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673016A/014A	77 00/20 12	321,265 99
142	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666052	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
143	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673818-A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
144	BLK 09 LOT 21 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673233-A	38 50/20 12	205,465 69
145	BLK 09 LOT 27 & 29 SEC 04 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670972/74	77 50/20 12	335,510 18
146	BLK 09 LOT 28 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671306	38 50/20 12	207,920 69
147	BLK 10 LOT 03 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673255-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
148	BLK 10 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 04 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-671010/08	86 00/20 12	359,093 48
149	BLK 10 LOT 18 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673893	38 50/20 12	210,564 54
150	BLK 11 LOT 01 & 03 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666077/75	72 00/20 12	306,365 99
151	BLK 11 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673301A/299A	77 00/20 12	321,265 99
152	BLK 11 LOT 13 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672276	38 50/20 12	199,492 18
153	BLK 11 LOT 14 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672308-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
154	BLK 11 LOT 15 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673878-A	38 50/20 12	194,870 41
155	BLK 11 LOT 16 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673879-A	41 00/20 12	205,242.58
156	BLK 11 LOT 24 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672287-A	38 50/20 12	204,730 18
157	BLK 11 LOT 28 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672769-A	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
158	BLK 11 LOT 30 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672773-A	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
159	BLK 11 LOT 32 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672775-A	38 50/20 12	211,681 57
160	BLK 12 LOT 18 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666107	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
161	BLK 12 LOT 21 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672624-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
162	BLK 12 LOT 21 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673353-A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
163	BLK 12 LOT 22 SEC 09 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673902-A	38 50/20 12	210,534.72
164	BLK 12 LOT 22/23 SEC 01 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA GA	T-666111/666112	63 00/20 12	345,814 20
165	BLK 12 LOT 30 SEC 05 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672333	38 50/20 12	201,539 67
166	BLK 13 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672833A/831A	77 00/20 12	337,018 35
167	BLK 13 LOT 08 SEC 01 BELVEDERE TOWNHOMES II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666120	36 00/20 12	197,250 36
168	BLK 13 LOT 11 SEC 03 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670628	38 50/20 12	211,284 66
169	BLK 13 LOT 14 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666126	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
170	BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666127	36 00/20 12	197,449 15
171	BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673387A	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
172	BLK 13 LOT 17 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666129	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
173	BLK 13 LOT 19 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673391-A	38 50/20 12	194 870 41
174	BLK 13 LOT 21 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672844A	38 50/20 12	211 681.57
175	BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666135	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
176	BLK 13 LOT 26 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666140	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
177	BLK 13 LOT 31 SEC 03 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-670646	38 50/20 12	209,907 36
178	BLK 13 LOT 35 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673407A	38 50/20 12	213,794 80
179	BLK 14 LOT 03 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673115A	38 50/20 12	211,468 89
180	BLK 14 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 06 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-672871A/873A	77 00/20 12	333,272 00
181	BLK 14 LOT 11 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I SUBD. BRGY QUINTANA, TANZA CAVITE	T-673423-A	38 50/20 12	203,954 92
182	BLK 14 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666157	36 00/20 12	206,344 80
183	BLK 14 LOT 35 SEC 07 BELVEDERE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-673447	38 50/20 12	205,525 32
184	BLK 15 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666195	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
185	BLK 15 LOT 14 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666197	36 00/20 12	187,420 41
186	BLK 15 LOT 16 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666199	36 00/20 12	204,231.57
187	BLK 15 LOT 40 & 42 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666225/223	72 00/20 12	312,164 15
188	BLK 16 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666227/229	84 00/20 12	340,231 58
189	BLK 16 LOT 03 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666304	46 00/20 12	225,142 02
190	BLK 20 LOT 17 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666324	36 00/20 12	198,387.31
191	BLK 21 LOT 28 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666369	36 00/20 12	197,449 15
192	BLK 23 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666427/429	72 00/20 12	319,625 51
193	BLK 23 LOT 19 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666444	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
194	BLK 24 LOT 12 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666461	36 00/20 12	198,522 59
195	BLK 24 LOT 17 & 18 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666466/467	88 00/20 12	361,900 64
196	BLK 25 LOT 06 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666473	36 00/20 12	192,706 11
197	BLK 25 LOT 08 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666475	36 00/20 12	206,672 80
198	BLK 26 LOT 12 & 10 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666489/491	72 00/20 12	324,415 20
199	BLK 27 LOT 03 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666507	38 50/20 12	214,122 80
200	BLK 27 LOT 22 SEC 01 BELVEDERE II BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-666526	40 00/20 12	218,592 80
201	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 10 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690993	35 00/20 12	174,150 57
202	BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691817	35 00/20 12	178,211 44
203	BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 1A SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688912	35 00/20 12	176,450 06
204	BLK 01 LOT 20 SEC 05 SUNNBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749753	35 00/20 12	177,497 81
205	BLK 02 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691029/031	75 00/20 12	299,173 30
206	BLK 02 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691832/830	75 00/20 12	303,665 15
207	BLK 02 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 06 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690478/690480	70 00/20 12	266,025 16
208	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691837	35 00/20 12	179,298 87
209	BLK 02 LOT 18 SEC 08 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690768	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
210	BLK 03 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 07 SUNNYBROOKE I BRY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690562/560	70 00/20 12	293,748 17
211	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 10 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691029/027	70 00/20 12	276,155 00
212	BLK 03 LOT 07 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749799	35 00/20 12	176,537 82
213	BLK 03 LOT 13 SEC 06 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690914	35 00/20 12	171,890 76
214	BLK 03 LOT 14 SEC 11 SUNNYBROOKE PH I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691344	35 00/20 12	172,791 29
215	BLK 04 LOT 05/07 SEC 04 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689981/689983	75 00/20 12	299 630.15
216	BLK 04 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 07 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690584/690582	75 00/20 12	298,308 01
217	BLK 04 LOT 13 SEC 14 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-692049	35 00/20 12	171,890 76
218	BLK 04 LOT 14 SEC 14 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-692050	35 00/20 12	176,214 99
219	BLK 04 LOT 19 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749839	35 00/20 12	180,794 08
220	BLK 05 LOT 02 SEC 06 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-750173	35 00/20 12	192,485 15
221	BLK 05 LOT 05 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690295	35 00/20.12	187,064 16
222	BLK 05 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689053/55	85 00/40 24	421,155 66
223	BLK 05 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689056/054	85 00/40 24	409,935 84
224	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 05 PH II SUNNYBROOKE BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749856	35 00/20 12	182 255 31
225	BLK 05 LOT 20 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749868	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
226	BLK 05 LOT 26 SEC 03 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689755	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
227	BLK 06 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 12 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691705/703	70 00/20 12	289,508 20
228	BLK 06 LOT 13 SEC 14 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-692099	35 00/20 12	206,255 31
229	BLK 06 LOT 17 SEC 03 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689777	35 00/20 12	183,860 60
230	BLK 07 LOT 05 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749909	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
231	BLK 07 LOT 11 SEC 13 PH I SUNNYBROOKE BRYG ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691925	35 00/20 12	171,890 76
232	BLK 07 LOT 15 SEC 12 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691732	35 00/20 12	170,398 34
233	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 12 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691736	35 00/20 12	188,698 40
234	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 13 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691933	35 00/20 12	206,255 31
235	BLK 08 LOT 06 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689110	35 00/20 12	189,356 36
236	BLK 08 LOT 16 SEC 07 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690657	35 00/20 12	182,801 95
237	BLK 09 LOT 05 SEC 04 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749708	35 00/20 12	161,618 15
238	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 04 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-690127/25	75 00/20 12	296,061 45
239	BLK 09 LOT 10 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689129	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
240	BLK 09 LOT 10 SEC 03 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689880	35 00/20 12	180,887 17
241	BLK 09 LOT 16 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749976	35 00/20 12	177,523 30
242	BLK 09 LOT 30 SEC 05 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749990	35 00/20 12	175,849 68
243	BLK 10 LOT 20 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-749219,	35 00/20 12	182,255.31
244	BLK 11 LOT 19 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689180	35 00/20 12	182,801 95
245	BLK 11 LOT 21/23 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689182/689184	70 00/20 12	286,257 20
246	BLK 12 LOT 03 SEC 11 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691455	35 00/20 12	175,688 26
247	BLK 12 LOT 14 SEC 02 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689198	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
248	BLK 12 LOT 15 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688397	35 00/20 12	221,356 36
249	BLK 13 LOT 10 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE PH I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688425	35 00/20 12	176,450 06
250	BLK 13 LOT 27 SEC 10 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691277	35 00/20 12	170,089 71
251	BLK 14 LOT 26 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688474	35 00/20 12	189,135 42
252	BLK 14 LOT 28 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688476	35 00/20 12	184,394 52
253	BLK 15 LOT 14 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689271	35 00/20 12	169,087 24
254	BLK 15 LOT 19 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY QUINTANA TANZA CAVITE	T-688500	35 00/20 12	180,491 33
255	BLK 17 LOT 16 SEC 11 SUNNYBROOKE BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-691550	35 00/20 12	182,256 31
256	BLK 17 LOT 28 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688575	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
257	BLK 18 LOT 10 SEC 02 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689332	35 00/20 12	182,255 31
258	BLK 19 LOT 25 SEC 02 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689368	35 00/20 12	172,198 60
259	BLK 22 LOT 11 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-748404	35 00/20 12	177,132 50
260	BLK 22 LOT 11 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689451	35 00/20 12	174,023 14
261	BLK 22 LOT 28 SEC 02 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-689468	35 00/20 12	176 648 26
262	BLK 23 LOT 14 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688759	35 00/20 12	178,594 97
263	BLK 23 LOT 25 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688770	35 00/20 12	309,356 36
264	BLK 25 LOT 14 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688807	35 00/20 12	180,491 33
265	BLK 25 LOT 18 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688811	35 00/20 12	177,122 07
266	BLK 29 LOT 15 SEC 01 SUNNY BROOKE I BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-688884	35 00/20 12	189,356 36
267	BLK 33 LOT 01 SEC 01 SUNNYBROOKE PH II BRGY ELANG GEN TRIAS CAVITE	T-748630	35 00/20.12	191,427.85

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Interested parties are required to secure copies of (a) INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS and (b) BID FORMS from the office of the Acquired Asset Management, 11th Flr Pacific Center Bldg San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City
2. Sealed proposals in triplicate shall be received at the Office of the Acquired Asset Management, 11th flr Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue Ortigas, Pasig City starting 8:00 a.m. not later than 2:00 p.m. immediately afterwhich, the said proposals shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders.
3. Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT in CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER'S/ MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila, payable to the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) in an amount equivalent to at least TEN PERCENT (10%) of the total bid price.
4. Properties shall be sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take possession of the property without seeking assistance from the HDMF.
5. All bidders are advised to visit/inspect the properties for bidding before posting their bid proposals
6. If the bidder who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he/she BIDDED during and after the bidding, his/her deposit shall be FORFEITED and failure of bidding shall be declared.
7. All awards by the Bidding Committee shall be subject to the approval / confirmation of the VP-NCR Housing Operations, North Sector / Manager – Acquired Asset Management, North Sector

HDMF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS. TO WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY THEREIN OR ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE FUND. THE DECISION OF THE FUND IS FINAL AND BINDING.

ACQUIRED ASSET MANAGEMENT Tel No: 634-8344 / 634-83-91 / 6375431

(PDI–Nov 28, 29 & 30, 2003)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF EXCESS, UNSERVICEABLE, SCRAP AND JUNK ITEMS
"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

The National Power Corporation will conduct a re-bid for the sale of the following:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION and LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
	SCHEDULE-I BID OPENING: DEC. 11, 2003 (2:00 PM) PLACE: MMD BIDDING ROOM, NPC HEAD OFFICE	
1.	One (1) Lot – Excess Pipe-Casings, 319 pieces and Pipe – Fittings, Flanges, and Bolts of various size, length and thickness. Please see attached list and pictures with the Bid Forms. Located at MAKBAN GPP, BAY, LAGUNA.	P 3,010,300.00 / Lot
2.	One (1) Lot – Unserviceable Stationary Equipment, consisting of Twenty-Five (25) units, and Junk Heavy Equipment consisting of Two (2) units. Please see list and pictures with the Bid Forms. Located at PGI S/Y, NPC MAKBAN GPP, Barangay BITIN, BAY, LAGUNA.	850,000.00 / Lot
3.	One (1) Lot – Unserviceable Items, approx. 172 tons (24-Items) such as: Steel Plates; Pipe-Fittings; Acid-Tanks; Compressors; Cylinders; Flanges; Etc. Please see list and pictures with the Bid Forms. Located at Manila Thermal Power Plant.	5.00 / kilo
4.	One (1) Lot – Junk Items, consisting of Corroded-Drums, Air-Heater-Elements; Junk Motor Vehicles and Angle-Bars. Approx. 33 tons. Please see lists and pictures with the Bid Forms. Located at Manila Thermal Power Plant	3.00 / kilo
	SCHEDULE-II BID OPENING: DEC. 12, 2003 (2:00 PM) PLACE: MMD BIDDING ROOM, NPC HEAD OFFICE	
1.	One (1) Lot – Unserviceable and Cannibalized Power-Transformer and 13-segments of Stator Coils. Located at SUCAT Thermal Power Plant.	P 1,320,000.00 / Lot
2.	One (1) Lot – Unserviceable and Cannibalized GenSet, CKD, Unit No. 5 of Bantayan DPP, Bantayan Is., Cebu.	590,000.00 / Lot
3.	One (1) Lot – Unserviceable Items and Junk Diesel Parts. Approximately 15 tons. Located at Tablas DPP in Batiano, Odiongan, Romblon.	45,000.00 / Lot
4.	One (1) Lot – Unserviceable and Used Office Equipment, Computers, Printers, and Laboratory Oven. Approximately 2 tons. Located at BCFTPP, Calaca, Batangas.	6,000.00 / Lot
5.	One (1) Lot – Unserviceable and Used Tires, 170 pcs. Located at STPP, Sucat, Muntinlupa City.	3,400.00 / Lot

All bids must be submitted with the following:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE.
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2002) OF THE BIDDER OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (original or BIR certified copy).

All interested parties who wish to secure bid forms must present a valid Tax Identification Card or Income Tax Return. Bid Forms at P500.00 / schedule may be secured from Mr. S.V. LOMUNTAD, Jr. at MMD, NPC Head Office, corner Agham Rd. and Quezon Ave., Diliman, Q.C. or call tel. no. 924-5384. Deadline for issuance of bid forms is 4:30 PM December 10, 2003 for Schedule-I and December 11, 2003 for Schedule-II.

For the Materials Management Department.

FELIX B. TACATA, JR.
OIC, MMD

(PDI–Nov. 30, Dec. 1 & 2, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION
Region I Field Office

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) hereby invites offers to purchase by way of sealed bids on the following properties:

NAME/LOCATION OF PROPERTY			REMARKS	HOUSE AREA., sm	LOT AREA, sm	MINIMUM BID PRICE, Pesos
1. Villa Manaoag Subdivision, Phase I						
Inventory Bgy. Pugaro,						
Manaoag, Pangasinan						
	BLK NO.	LOT NO.				
	1	6	House & Lot/Titled	24 00	163 00	180 000 00
	1	11	House & Lot/Titled	24 00	142 00	180,000 00
	1	12	House & Lot/Titled	24 00	154 00	180,000 00
	5	4	House & Lot/Titled	24 00	162 00	180 000 00
2. Villa Manaoag Subdivision. Phase II			Lots only/Titled		16,681 00	4,737,981.51
(70 lots) Bgy Pugaro, Manaoag						
Pangasinan						
3. Block 6, Lot 31, Villa Pozorrubio			House & Lot/Titled	25 00	80 00	225,000 00
Subdivision, Bgy Alipangpang,						
Pozorrubio, Pangasinan						
4. 160 Castro-Sarmenta Subdivision,			House & Lot/Titled	102 00	165 00	650,000 00
Bolosan District, Dagupan City, Pangasinan						

A bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of cash or certified manager's/cashier's check payable to HGC will be required of all prospective bidders.

The bidder is advised to inspect the actual condition of the property/ies subject of public bidding. All property/ies are being sold on "as-is" basis. Particulars may be obtained at the Region I Field Office, 2/F Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City, or call (074) 443-60-33 (074) 443-95-85, or (074) 446-48-81.

Sealed bids must be received on or before 2:00 p.m., Monday, 15 December 2003 at the 2/F, Insular Life Building, Abanao Road Extension, Baguio City.

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFER, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFERS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

(Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DELOS SANTOS
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 28, 29 & 30, 2003)

OFFICE SPACE FOR SALE / LEASE

- Location: Suite 2501-A 25th floor, Philippine Stock Exchange Building, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
- Area: 405 square meters, with 2 units of basement parking
- Amenities: Carpeted Rooms, Conference Room, Pantry, 3 Restrooms
- For site inspection and other particulars, kindly contact Mr. Lee, Ja Young of the General Affairs Department, anytime during office hours at Tel. No. 848-02-31 to 39.

Administration Group
Kepco Phils. Corp.

Repubika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 928-87-41 to 65 local 510

Tender No. 2003SEC416(B) (NFDM)-01
November 28, 2003

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) for and in behalf of the National Dairy Authority/Department of Agriculture, hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of 1,192 metric tons (MT) of Non Fat Dry Milk (NFDM) for January 2004 arrival under the US Section 416 (b) Program.

Tender documents can be secured from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), NAFC, Apacible Hall, Department of Agriculture Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City starting on December 2, 2003.

Prospective bidder may start submitting their pre-qualification documents on **December 3, 2003**. The deadline for submission of the pre-qualification documents shall be on **December 11, 2003**. Pre-qualified bidders shall be notified anytime before the pre-bid conference. Only pre-qualified bidders shall be allowed to attend the pre-bid conference.

The pre-bid conference shall be held on **December 16, 2003** at 2:00 p.m. at the NAFC Conference Room.

Only fully completed sealed bids from pre-qualified bidders shall be submited not later than 2:00 p.m. on **December 22, 2003**. Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened.

For details, please contact Ms. Paz Ventic or Ms. Peachy Agustin at tel. nos. 928-1966 or 929-8234.

Original Signed
MARIDEL TRINIDAD-DIZON
Executive Director

(PDI--Nov. 30 & Dec. 6, 2003)

Philippine Tourism Authority
MANILA

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
No. 003-2003

TO : All Concerned

SUBJECT : Processing Fees

Effective January 1, 2004, the processing fee collected for every travel tax certificate issued, whether exemption, reduced rate or refund, is hereby increased to Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00).

This accordingly amends Memorandum Circular No. 001-2000 that took effect on January 1, 2001.

Please be guided accordingly.

(Sgd.) **ROBERT DEAN S. BARBERS**
General Manager

03 November 2003

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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LORETO ECHAVARIA DALENA

of Pakil, Laguna

Peacefully joined her Creator and her husband, Judge Diosdado C. Dalena, on November 27, 2003 at the age of 93.

She is survived by her children and children-in-law **Gloria** and **Andy Rivera**, **Linda**, **Marina** and **Tony Abad**, **Danny** and **Nini Gaviola**, **Nenette** and **Joe Pajela**, **Rey** and **Evelyn Pujol**, **Ador** and **Corabel Beltran**, **Lordan** and **Elsa Padilla**, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Pakil, Laguna.

Interment will be today, November 30, 2003 at the Pakil Municipal Cemetery after the 2 p.m. Mass.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me. All their joys of my life; and I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever ..... Psalms 41:13

CONSUELO RIVERA MAGSAYSAY

Peacefully joined the Lord on November 28, 2003 at the age of 82.

Her loving husband **Casto**; children & children-in-law, **Litta, Ray & Mila Aquino, Willy** and **Marlene Tigno, Ric, Francis & Girlie Alba, Joey** and **Dolores Dela Rosa, Wilma, Victor & Vilma Bernardino, Luigi** and **Ma. Teresa Valbuena**; sisters **Manuela R. Nebrida, Paz R. Posadas** and brother **Sec. Vicente C. Rivera Jr.**, grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment will be at La Loma Cemetery on Sunday **December 7, 2003** after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

MARCELO APOLOGISTA SANICO, CPA

October 17, 1925 - November 26, 2003

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Lourdes**; children **George, Rose, Dennis & Cris, Fr. Arnold, SDB, Albert & Alona, Alvin & Babsie,** and **Cathy**; grandchildren **Therese Marie, Marie Elise** (†), **Ana Dominique** (†) & **Elaine Grace,** and relatives & friends requests your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, EDSA. Mass is celebrated everyday at 8:00 P.M.

For interment inquiries, please contact Loyola Memorial Chapels, 895-1011-19; Albert, 0918-9269017; Rose, 0916-7235862

DIADEMA "DIDA" PALMA JOVEN

Died peacefully on November 27,2003 at the age of 62.

Her loving husband **Nolasco Joven**; daughter **Diana Joven-Buenconsejo** and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sto. Domingo Church, St. John Chapel, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, November 30, 2003, 8:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

PHILAM INSURANCE

mourn the death of

Billando DM Atienza

VP and Profit Center Manager of Property & Energy

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 27, 2003 at the age of 40

and extend their deepest sympathy to his family.

We request the pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sinisian, Calaca, Batangas.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 2, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. in Calaca Cemetery, Calaca, Batangas.

Message of Thanks
We, the family of the late

Leocadio Tiamzon Datu

who peacefully joined his Creator on November 11, 2003 at the age of 94.

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude & sincerest appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

TEOFILA ELEPANO RODIS

"PELANG"

San Francisco,California
and Calamba, Laguna

Passed away peacefully on November 24, 2003 at the Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. After a funeral service in Sudbury, Massachusetts on Friday, November 28, her body was flown to San Francisco, California for a viewing and rosary service on Sunday, November 30 at Duggan's Serra Mortuary in Daly City. Following a Funeral Mass at St. Stephen Church in San Francisco on December 1, she will be laid to rest by the side of her husband **Hermilo "Hermie" Rodis**, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Colma, California.

Pelang was born in Calamba, Laguna, Philippines on January 8, 1925 the daughter of Lope Elepano and Josefa Alger. She graduated from the University of Santo Tomas (UST) with a bachelor's degree in Education after the war and married **Hermie Rodis** on December 27, 1950 in Manila.

Pelang is survived by all eight of her children: **Rodel** (married to **Edna Austria**), **Hermilo, Jr. "Don"** (married to **Jocelyn Quintos**), **Maria Josefina "Girlie," Maria Loida** (married to **Jon Abraham**), **Maria Selma "Wasel"** (married to **Tom Hannan**), **Maria Celia "Bebs"** (married to **Jondi Sipin**), **Angel Victor "Gevic"** (married to **Christina Diy**) and **Ramon Luis "Rambu"** (married to **Rita Segundo**).

"Mama" will be especially missed by her loving grandchildren: **Carla, Nicolas, Melissa, Carlo, Justin, Daniel, Brian, Eric, Paulina, Nicole, Marco, Katrina** and **Andrea**.

A special Memorial Mass will be held at the Calamba Catholic Church in Calamba, Laguna on Saturday, December 13, 2003 at 1:00 P.M. and at the Mary the Queen Church in Greenhills, San Juan on December 16, 2003 at 6:00 A.M.

"'Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."
– Psalm 23:4

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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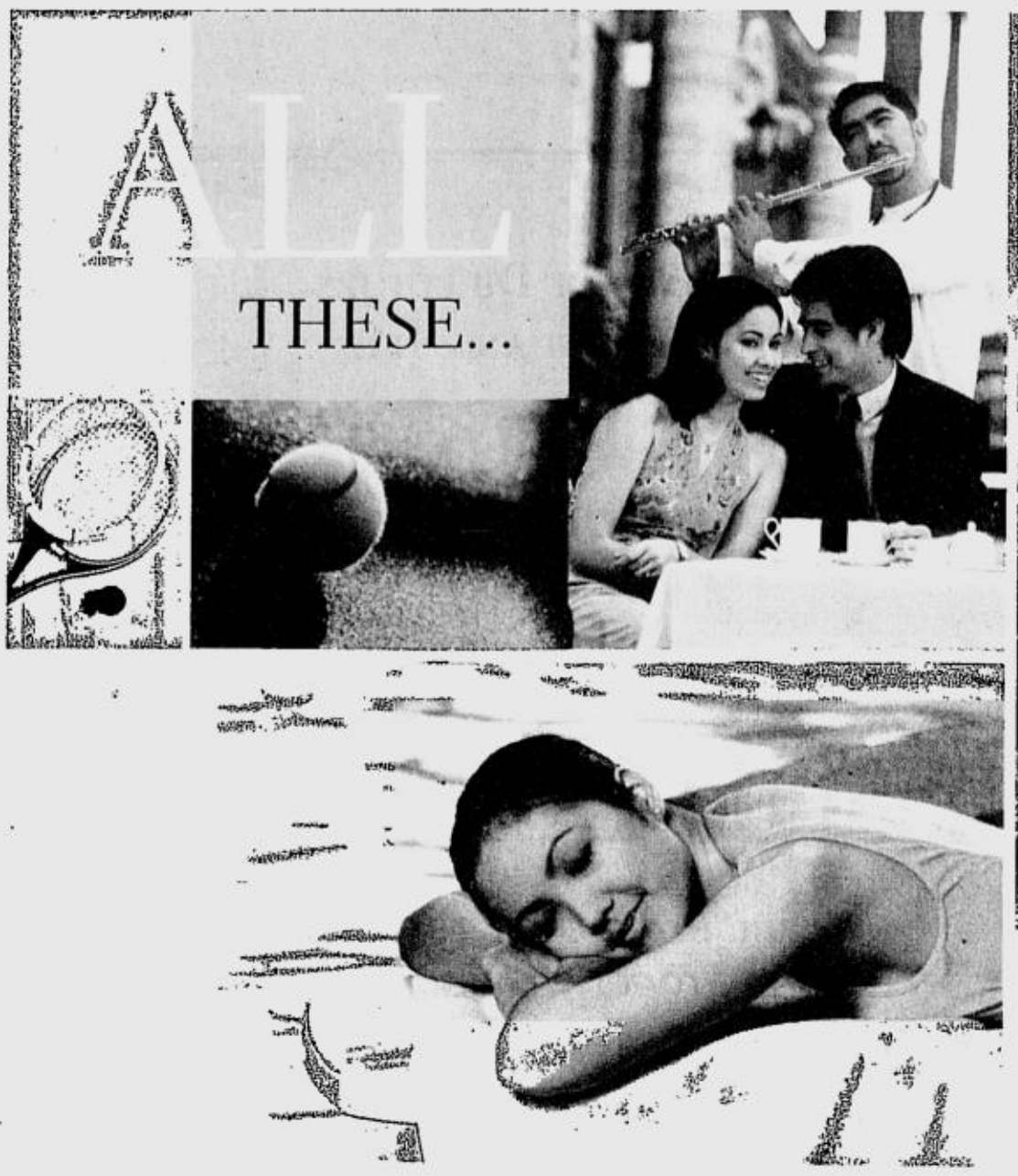

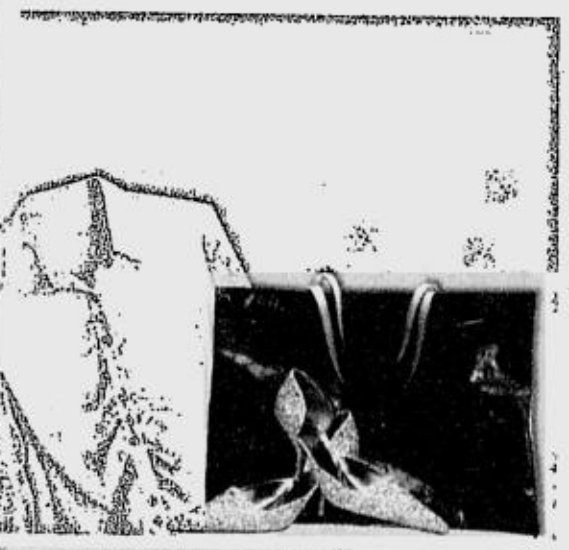

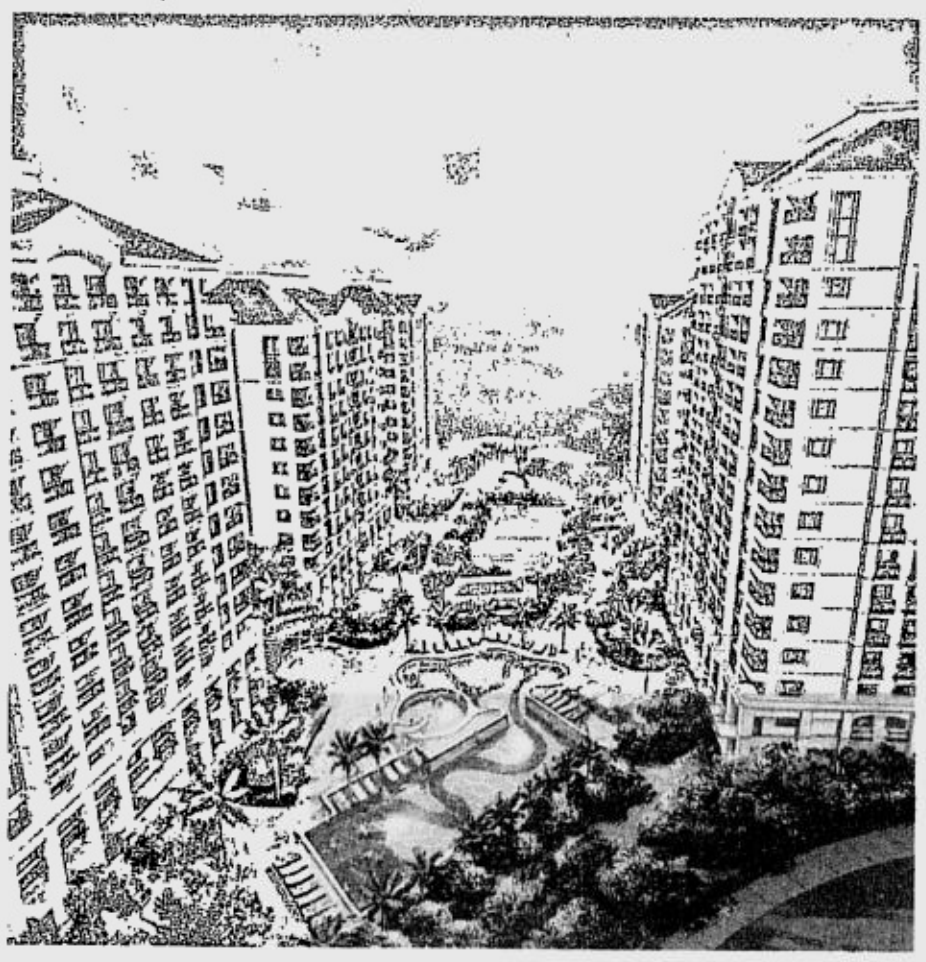

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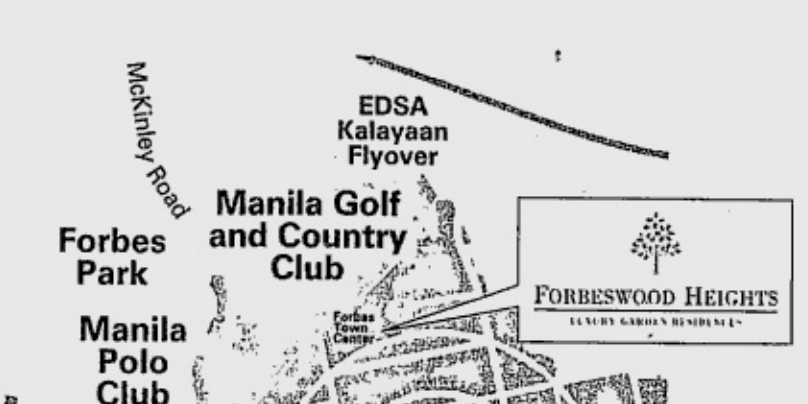

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FPJ and Susan Roces "unprepared for the onslaught" LUIS LIWANAG/YES! MAGAZINE

'Da King' and 'Da Queen' at Manila Hotel

FERNANDO Poe Jr. and **Susan Roces** take one look at the crush of reporters rushing to hem them in from all sides—and know that not all their five decades in show biz could have prepared them for this onslaught.

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

In no time, the First Couple of Philippine Movies have given themselves up to the contingent—made up of every major international and local media agency in the country—to be shafted down the mezzanine stairs step by perilous step, maneuvered through another media thicket at the lobby, bolted past the narrowing entrance of the Champagne Room, and finally disgorged by the press con table, around which more hard-boiled reporters hunker in wait.

"*Ay, iba ito*!" FPJ would say about the press at the hotel's senator's lounge an hour after. Half-seriously, he adds, "*Buti nga hindi ako nag*-freeze."

For her part, the distant but lady-like Susan would say, "*Siguro sa mga susunod, sasama ako* if there is a need. *Kung hindi naman*, I don't have to go with him. *Kasi imbis na makakilos siya, inaalalayan pa niya ako*."

Indeed, so dense is the crackle of recorders and cameras mixing it up with eruptions of clapping and chanting ("FPJ! FPJ! FPJ!"), that a steady din hangs in the air.

"I could not hear myself," FPJ says of those 11 minutes it took for him to announce a candidacy that had twitted the country for 11 months. Using his hands to conjure words coming soundlessly out from his mouth, he adds, "*Lumalabas 'yung* words, *pero 'di ko marinig. Sinasabi ko, pero* I could not hear it."

But there is no doubt that those very words have changed his life forever. "Right after I said I was running," he says, his words dropping one at a time, like stone, "I knew *na ibang mundo na ito*. I knew I was entering a different world."

'DA KING'/C2

SANTOS' US sked was too tight, says her manager.

Juday had no time to get an abortion, says manager

/C8

Paolo to lose fifth co-host

"THEY'RE leaving me," says Paolo, but he's not complaining. FILE PHOTO

By Marinel R. Cruz

REGINE Tolentino decided not to renew her contract as the quizmaster of "Digital LG Quiz Show" because of the restrictions imposed on her by the producers of the Sunday morning program.

Regine is leaving her quiz show co-host, Paolo Bediones.

Regine said the producers discouraged her from "doing certain things" because she was hosting a quiz show that caters to the youth.

"I understand my producers," Regine told INQUIRER Entertainment last Thursday. "But I'm not just a host. I'm also an actress, a dancer, a businesswoman and a mother. I have to

PAOLO/C2

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SMART Simply Amazing!

Paolo to lose fifth co-host

From page C1

juggle all these things."

"Eat Bulaga" host Pia Guanio will replace Regine as quizmaster of the reformatted show "Digital LG Challenge" starting Dec. 7. Paolo Bediones will continue to be the male quizmaster.

"Because of the reformat, the producers had to address a lot of concerns," Regine said. "We agreed that it's better that they find a replacement for me."

Paolo is also losing her "Extra Challenge" co-host, Miriam Quiambao. The beauty queen turned host and actress is set to marry her Italian boyfriend, Claudio Rondinelli. She intends to join Claudio in Hong Kong, where he is based.

That will leave Paolo alone again for the fifth time in a TV show.

"I'm happy for Miriam and Regine," said Paolo. "Miriam is about to enter a new chapter in her life while Regine is experiencing a second birth in her career.

"But I find it funny that all my female co-hosts leave me," he said. "But what can I do? I don't have plans to tie the knot yet and I still enjoy my work on TV so much."

Paolo's co-host Tisha Silang on "mornings@gma" left the show to "try other things." Tisha is now married and based in the United States.

Karen Davila, Paolo's original co-host on "Extra Extra," left GMA in 2000 to transfer to ABS-CBN.

Lyn Ching, his co-host on "S-Files," left that show in 2001 also to marry. She is now part of the "Unang Hirit" team.

Paolo said he still has no idea who would replace Miriam on "Extra Challenge". Several veteran and novice hosts have shown interest in filling Miriam's slot, he said.

"I think there's something good in hiring a novice host [for 'Extra Challenge']," said Paolo. "You never know, we might discover a diamond in the rough.

TISHA Silang, his co-host on "mornings@gma," also left Paolo alone, like Regine (inset) soon will.

"On the other hand, I don't see anything bad about getting a veteran to replace Miriam either," he added. "The only disadvantage could be if the veteran has a hectic schedule."

Paolo said he has no hand in choosing his co-hosts. "I can't recommend," he said. "I can only encourage people who want to try out. I prefer someone who will love the job as much as I do, who is serious about her work, especially on 'Extra.' It's a 24/7 thing."

The show, which used to be titled "Extra, Extra," has a new "Reality TV" label. Paolo was in the jungle of Subic in Zambalez when INQUIRER Entertainment first contacted him.

Paolo said he was sad that Regine had decided to leave after hosting the quiz show with him for four years, but added he was pleased with the way Regine's career has been going.

Paolo said he and Pia were getting along very well. They started taping for the reformatted show last Thursday, he said.

"The job is perfect for someone like Pia," said Regine, who hosted the quiz show for four years. "I know she will do a good job."

Regine, a single mother, manages a boutique on Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City. She and estranged husband Lander Vera-Perez have two daughters, Azucena Reign and Alyssandra Reigen.

She said she plans to put up a dance studio beside her boutique in February 2004.

Regine is also busy hosting the top-rating early morning tele-magazine show, "Unang Hirit," and the Sunday morning variety show, "SOP," both on GMA 7.

She was also part of the Showgirls group of 12 sexy stars.

Website gives quick access to Patrick Garcia

YOUNG actor Patrick Garcia recently celebrated recently his 12 years in show biz with the launch of his own interactive portal and website.

Now, his friends and fans can reach Patrick instantly through www.patrickgarcia.com.

"This portal/website is the product of a three-month research and planning," says Patrick. "This turns a new leaf in my career as it reveals my maturing image and personality."

Patrick's website has unique electronic features and applications, with web pages using the latest, quick-click and animated interactive navigation page through site interfaces and links.

It also has 100-percent high-end multimedia audio and video formats, streaming video and audio archives of Patrick's profile and accomplishments, with clips from television, cinema, commercial endorsements, live performances, sports events and awards.

The website also features the actor's downloadable photo gallery from the past, and flashes MTVs directed and produced by Patrick himself.

"More exciting content will be added soon," he says. "PC and mobile phone users can surf the site for the latest and cool products and brands I am endorsing."

Live message boards can also be accessed by surfers who wish to make live chats with Patrick and his show biz friends on the Net and through TV WAP chat boards.

There is also a live video streaming conferencing chat session through web cams and streaming audio.

GARCIA. Download him

The web portal was launched recently at the Tavern on the Square in Makati. The affair was graced by Patrick's fellow young celebrities like Jodie Santamaria, Antoinette Taus, Baron Geisler, Cheska Garcia and others.

The interactive portal was developed by Interactive Works Unlimited and is powered by VeriSign and SiteSeal Program. The launch was sponsored by ActSent, SAKSMSG Interactive Events, Lee, Converse, Oakley's, Ellen's Aesthetic Center, Dominique James Photography, Swarovski and Njork.

'Da King' and 'Da Queen'...

From page C1

No politicians?

It is a world he entered with Senator **Tito Sotto** as the lone politician by his side. Not an accidental move, definitely. From the start, FPJ has wanted to be seen as a non-politician, as a man removed from those who brought this country to this pass, as the Panday destined to inspire a luckless people.

To get there, he has studiously avoided being seen with his Pareng **Erap** in the last months to the runup of his announcement. And **Angara** and **Enrile**, senior politicians advising him behind closed doors, were a deliberate no-show at the Manila Hotel.

His campaign manager "Tito Sen"—which is how FPJ calls the two-term senator, a man quite easy on the nerves and quite ready to call himself FPJ's "*alalay*, coach, buddy"—makes certain everyone gets it. "You see, there are no politicians here, no political parties. I'm here as his friend, not as a politician."

And, yes, there *are* new faces. At the senator's lounge, where visitor traffic is heavy, Senator Sotto moves them along, with enthusiasm. "*O*, picture-taking *daw*, Ron, *mga* supporters *mo sa* Tayabas."

FPJ shakes hands, poses for a Kodak moment. "*O, ito naman daw mga* youth! *Sabihin niyo,' di ba* supporter *ni* FPJ *ang* student council president *ng* La Salle *at* supreme council president *tiga*-PLM? *O*, picture-taking *na raw*."

FPJ hugs the guys, smiles at the girls, has another Kodak moment. And so on, with One Global Filipino reps, some PCCI vice presidents, many more—each one wanting, and being given, a Kodak moment.

But, out of Kodak range, loom the big ones. **Danding Cojuangco** is in the belly of FPJ's campaign, notes **Imee Marcos**. Iglesia ni Kristo is in the pipeline, goes the buzz among his campaign leaders. And who's to doubt where Erap's money will go?

Imelda Marcos is very FPJ, confirms veteran reporter and Imelda-friend **Sol Vanzi**. As early as September, word is that the Madame had called Susan Roces, her godchild in marriage, to prod her to prod FPJ to run. Now that FPJ has, the Madame's reaction, says Vanzi, is a very pleased "*Mabuti naman*!" And told of Susan's responses at the press con, the Madame trills: "*Ay*, wow, *ang galing niyang magsalita*!"

For the longest time, says Sol Vanzi, the Madame has been a diehard Poe believer. Imelda does not tire of telling the story of how, after she and Ferdinand landed in Hawaii against their will in 1986, Susan Roces was one of the few who very soon after came visiting. "*Napaiyak ang Pangulo*," Imelda tells. "*Alam mo, ang mag-asawang 'yan, totoong kaibigan. May* word."

Manila Hotel

"*Wala talaga dapat itong* Manila Hotel today," FPJ says, still at the senator's lounge, over lunch where he chooses rice and *sinigang na isda* over the *kare-kare* and the shrimp with *aligue* sauce. "Today we were supposed to go to the church of Manaoag [Pangasinan] *para magsimba. Tapos sa* San Carlos [his father's hometown] *namin balak magkaroon ng maliit na* gathering, *at doon ako maga-announce. Sa* local press *doon*."

But he also understood that the media in Manila had put in too much time and work on him already. "*Kung ano-anong petsa ang nakakarating sa kanila*. They were being misled. *Magulo na, nakakahiya na. At* late *na rin halos itong anunsiyo*." Besides, interjects the pragmatic Senator Sotto, if you announce there, you don't get the big media outfits.

But November 26, FPJ says, is a really good day for him on any year. "It's the eve of the birthdays of four people important to me: my father, my first best friend, my first director, my idol who was assassinated. You know who those are? Fernando Poe Sr., Boy Sta. Romana, Mario Barri, and Ninoy Aquino."

Then Senator Sotto, after dismissing other venues for bad feng shui, chose the Manila Hotel. "'*Di ba* Grand Old Lady *ang tawag dito? At* historical *pa*!"

Decisions, decisions

For the big day, FPJ decided on a couple of things.

One, he is wearing a *barong*. ("*Gusto ko nga naka*-jacket *ako, pero hindi, barong na nga*.") And two, he is doing away with his omnipresent sunglasses. ("*Masakit sa mata ko kahit normal na araw, e lalo pa 'yong ilaw ng* camera. But I used my glasses. They should see my eyes. I want them to look at my eyes. I want them to see what I am saying. If you don't see a person's eyes, *parang may 'tinatago*.")

The English-Tagalog mix for his open forum, however, he did not decide on. ("It just happened. There are things I can say better in English and some I can say better in Tagalog. *'Di ko naman 'yon pinag-iisipan pa*.")

But all told, he encountered a press far more civilized than he expected. ("*Maayos naman kanina. Wala namang nambastos*...")

Quite the other extreme, in fact.

That he hadn't made a decision on his platform made FPJ vulnerable at the press con. Yet that, and the issue of campaign funds, which spells coming accommodations, or the issue of vision, which spells coming afflictions, did not become lynchpin questions. The edgy follow-up clarifications didn't come either. No, the press was very kind.

My guess is that many of the reporters, long cynical about the politics they see up close every day, may not think FPJ fit to run the country, but they also may have been expecting to grill a different man. Meeting up with a presidential aspirant, who speaks words like "*Sa buhay ng tao, dumarating ang araw na kailangan niyang harapin*...," could have thrown them off. The words are, after all, almost archaic; the manner, old school; the aura, sincere.

What to do with someone like that? Is the man for real?

Next time out, the press would have recouped. And then it won't be so easy—even for FPJ, a king adored in his own kingdom, who now finds himself in another.

NOTE: Manny Mogato from Reuters complains that the international press knows too little about FPJ The Man. And he's right. But now YES! has put together multiple vignettes—many flattering, some not—about the man, culled over two months of research. Out December 1.

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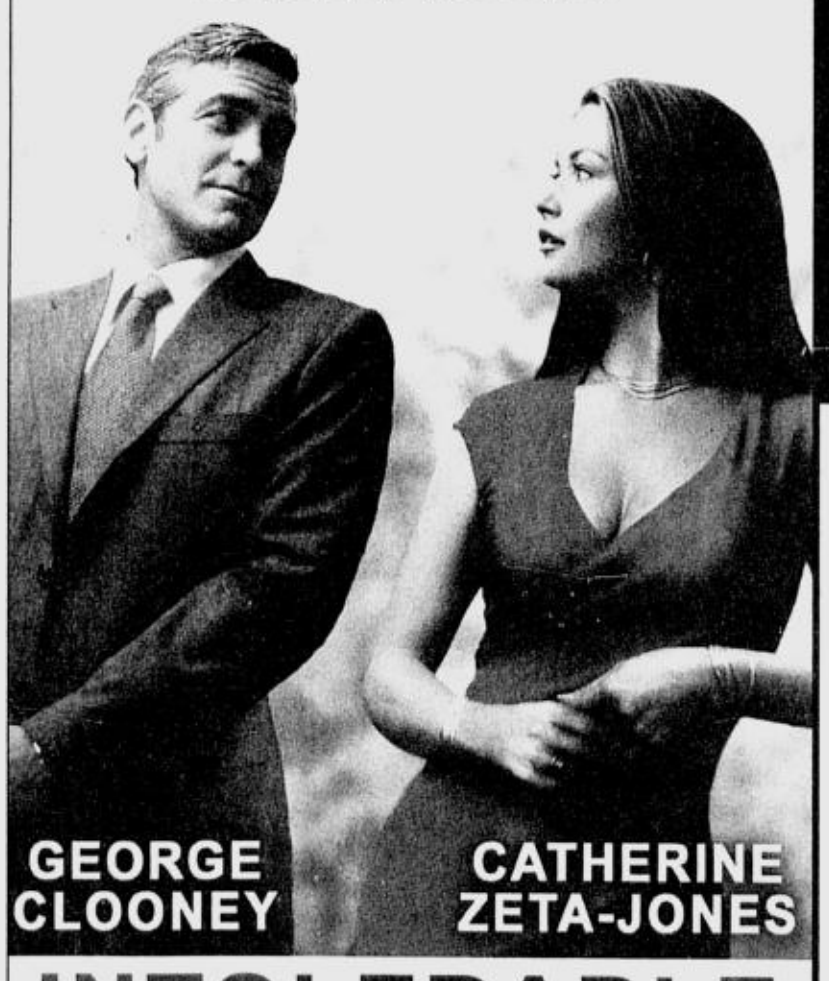

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'Electile Dysfunction' hits the spot

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IT'S still early days for the 2004 electoral campaign season, but politics is a yearlong obsession in these parts, so the political satire, "Electile Dysfunction," is enjoying good houses and enthusiastic response at the Republic of Malate on weekends.

We caught the feisty comedy revue directed by **Leo Rialp** last Wednesday, and had ourselves a good time as the antic likes of **Cynthia Patag, Robert Seña, Noni Buencamino, Dords Javier** and **Buboy Garovillo** took potshots at some "presidentiables" expected to figure strongly in next year's polls.

We're glad that Leo was able to lure Cynthia out of semi-retirement. She plays a buxom angel in the show, and should perform more often, now that she's gotten her show biz "wings" back.

As Noni spoofed an eminently spoofable presidential wannabe, his deliciously on-target performance affirmed our view that he's the most versatile actor we have.

And we were happy to see Robert in a generally non-singing role, for a change. Not that we've gotten tired of listening to his "ear-rinsing" tenor voice, but we know that he wants to prove that he can also do well in non-musical productions, and he clearly does that here.

"Electile Dysfunction" does have some songs, but even the good singers in the cast don't perform them full-force. The songs here are more casual and informal, and are thus given a laid-back, nonchalant treatment.

After listening to the *birit* bleats of too many self-styled divas of late, the cool renditions in "Electile Dysfunction" are a most welcome relief.

The Philippine political scene is crowded with psychedelic characters just begging to be spoofed, but the show wisely chooses to focus on just five of them, thus enabling it to go into bemusing detail in limning its gallery of political "rogues."

It also helped greatly that the presidentiables were given opportunities by the show's format to interact with each other, and also with the audience.

This interactive aspect enables viewers to get back at some of the presidential hopefuls, and even to "vote" them—out of existence.

You can imagine how cathartic that is to some people in the audience.

Why, we even saw one of them voting off all of the would-be presidents! Maybe he planned to run the country himself?!

The songs here are more casual and informal, and are thus given a laid-back, nonchalant treatment

Bukas Palad

THE BUKAS Palad Ministry has a new, more pop and radio-friendly sound in its new album, "Let Your Praises Be Heard." The songs in the compilation borrow elements from R&B, jazz and even dance music to spread meaningful messages.

It's "the music of the present expressing a message that is eternal."

Guest pop artists featured in the album are **Regine Velasquez, Lea Salonga, Jett Pangan, Noel Cabangon** and **Cooky Chua.** The album also carries remakes of songs by **Gary Granada** and **Amy Grant.**

The ongoing promo tour for "Let Your Praises Be Heard" will visit the Alabang Town Center, Dec. 6 at 5 p.m., and Power Plant Mall, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m.

Vienna Teng

SAN Francisco-based singer, songwriter and pianist **Vienna Teng** has made an excellent impression with her debut album, "Waking Hours."

David Letterman exclaims, "There isn't a single dud in it." And the San Francisco Examiner raves, "**Norah Jones** has nothing on Vienna Teng. Her well-written songs not only speak for themselves, they speak directly to the heart."

The songs in "Waking Hour" range from "gentle piano ballads featuring Vienna's soothing vocals, to multilayered productions painting lush musical landscapes."

'Will Your Fortune'

THE 10TH episode of **George Sison's** inspirational show, "Will Your Fortune . . . In the Game of Life" will be aired at 11:30 p.m. tonight on Channel 7. The episode directed by **Renato Malay** focuses on beliefs that cause so much unhappiness in this world, like "money is the root of all evil," "life is a constant struggle," "sex is dirty" and "love hurts."

Sison further elucidates how the belief of not being good enough and excessive feelings of guilt create problems and difficulties. The program's host is the author of the bestseller "A Miracle Awaits You," and founder of the Temple of Prayer, Peace and Prosperity, an ecumenical and nonsectarian transformational and development center. It focuses on attaining wholistic growth in one's physical being and external circumstances.

Gwyneth likes only 3 of her movies

NEW YORK—Gwyneth Paltrow has room in her heart for only two of her recent films, "The Royal Tenenbaums" and "The Talented Mr. Ripley."

"But that's it since 'Shakespeare in Love,'" Paltrow, 31, tells Entertainment Weekly magazine in its Nov. 28 issue. "I'm trying to think if I left anything out. No, not really."

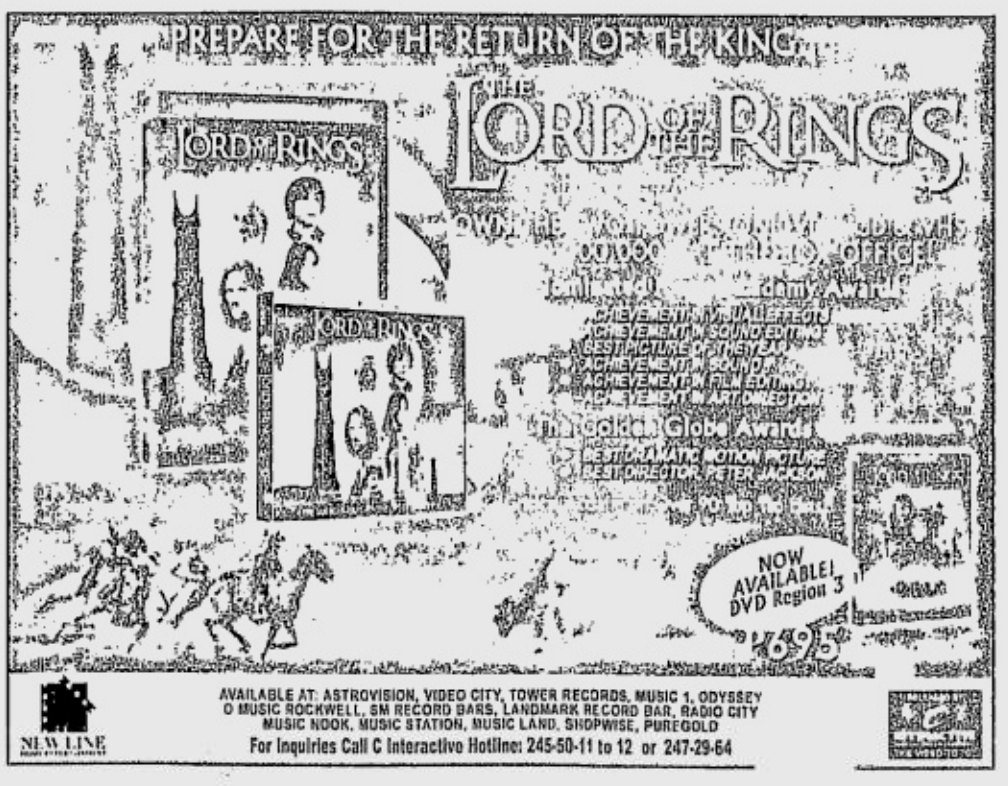
Paltrow won a best-actress Oscar in 1999 for "Shakespeare in Love." Her movies after that also include "Duets," "Shallow Hal" and "View From the Top."

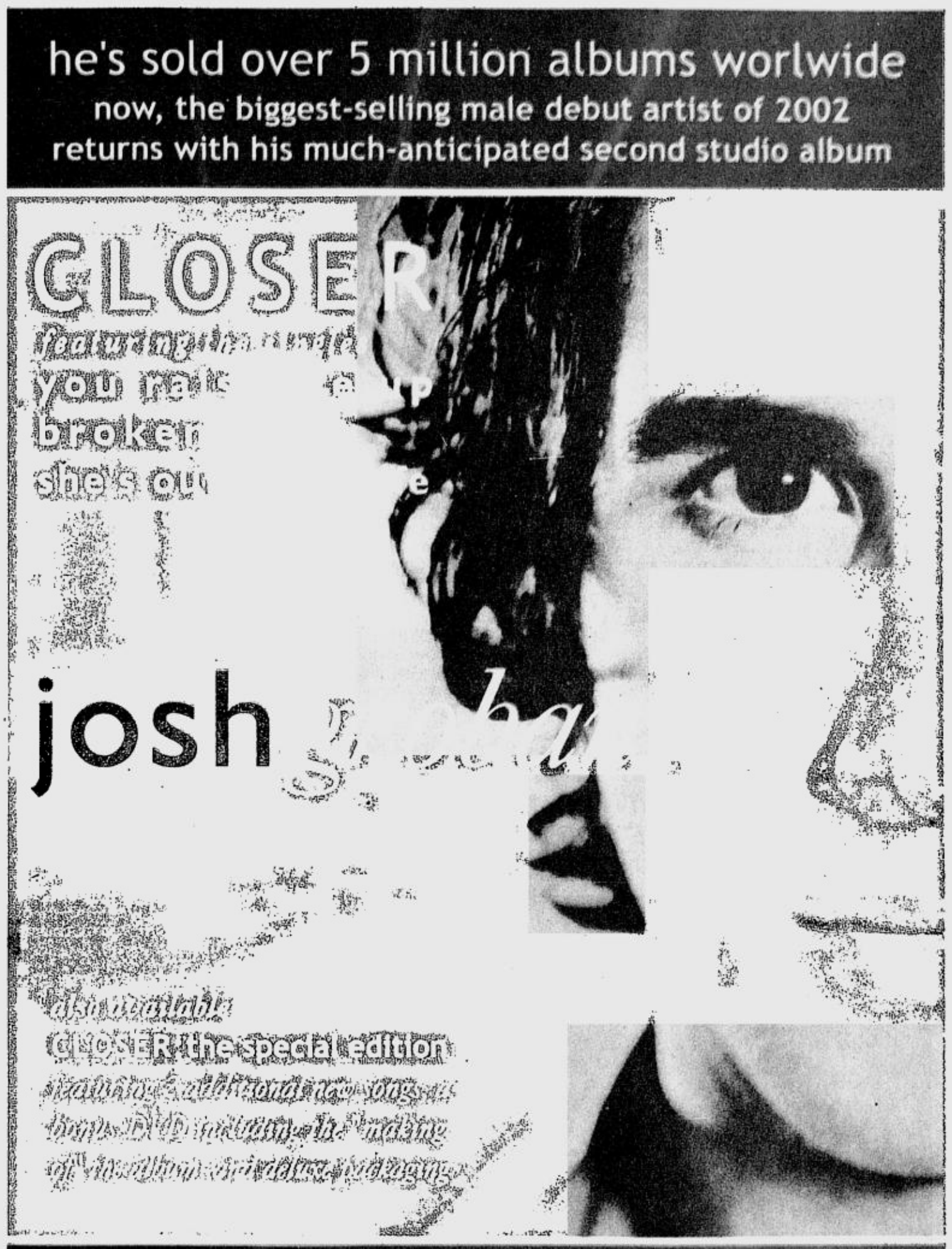
However, she's embracing her new film, "Sylvia," in which she stars as poet Sylvia Plath. It's a role that her father, producer-director Bruce Paltrow, urged her to take on. He died last year at 58 of throat cancer.

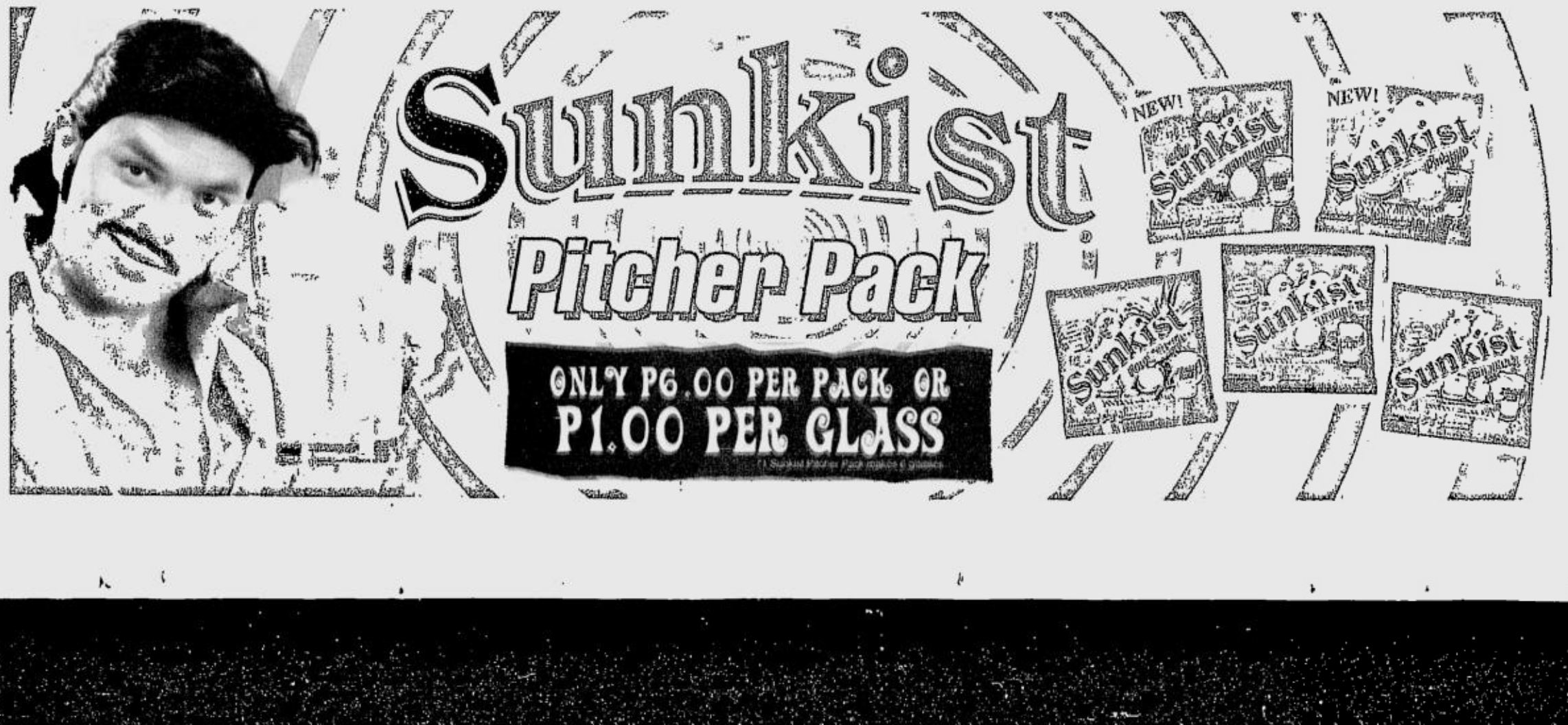
Paltrow says she's going to limit herself to one or two movies a year.

"I have none of that wide-eyed, 'where is this going to go!' anymore," she explains. "It's not excitement like that. It's excitement like I know what I'm doing and I know what I want to do.'"

Her upcoming projects include the film adaptation of "Proof," the Broadway drama about a vulnerable daughter, her genius father and the elusive solution to a difficult mathematical problem. *AP*







Wendell and Antonio took off their shirts, but the GMA hats stole the show

By Peachy Vibal-Guioguio
Contributor

IF AN SRO turnout is the gauge of an event's success, then the party sponsored by GMA Channel 7 for the Ad Congress delegates and guests last Nov. 21 was one big success.

By 8 p.m. that Friday night at the Baguio Country Club (BCC), a long queue of advertisers, students, guests and colleagues from the broadcast industry was snaking down the BCC garden to register. BCC's cavernous tennis court was transformed into a veritable amusement park for the occasion.

Show Stopper

A booth was set up to look and actually function as a television studio for aspiring "newscasters." People could record a song or two in a videoke booth. And they could try on the costumes worn by stars in actual shows and have their photos taken in a costume booth.

The delegates brought home souvenirs of these gimmicks for free in the form of VCDs, CDs or photos.

The network also set up a massage booth.

One conspicuous hit were the party hats made especially for the occasion and distributed by GMA's marketing staff. The headgear, a much coveted souvenir that evening, was the brainchild of Meckoy Quiogue, GMA Marketing president and COO.

"I attended a Warner Party in LA and they gave away a white wig attached to a baseball cap and a mask which you could decorate with colored beads," Quiogue recalled. "I thought that would be a good idea for the GMA party."

Designed by Rollie de Leon, the ubiquitous party hat was made of foam, dyed and handpainted, and came in various patterns—butterfly, fish, star, caterpillar, starfish, curly hair.

"We made around 2,000 hats and it took us more than a month to finish everything," said De Leon.

Several other parties were happening that same night, but people, thanks to the magic of SMS, trooped to the BCC, creating a traffic jam as late as 2 a.m.

Ana Barrameda, a fine arts student delegate from University of the East, found the hats very cool. "The creative headgear was a big come-on specially for us students," she said. "That gimmick did it."

Jean Talam, media manager of San Miguel Corp., found the hats "very creative and colorful."

"It was like a Mardi Gras," enthused Mando Cosio, vice president of Zenith Optimedia.

"We were supposed to move on to another party but decided against it because we were totally enjoying ourselves," Cosio added.

Most of GMA's big stars were there. Delegates rocked to the tune of Passage and Retrospect bands, which played until the wee hours.

The bands also jammed with GMA talents like Boyet de Leon, Johnny Delgado, Bobot Ortiz, Joey Marquez, Raymart Santiago, Ara Mina, Rufa Mae Quinto, Diana Zubiri, Pops Fernandez, Tanya Garcia, Ogie Alcasid, among others.

When "Bubble Gang" hunks Wendell Ramos and Antonio Aquitania took centerstage and took off their shirts, the crowd went wild.

Some people were unable to contain themselves and also went up the stage to dance with the two sexy stars.

In between the dancing, singing and laughter, GMA raffled off cash prizes.

The grand prize, a Toyota Vios, was won by Rhoda Gamboa.

The GMA top honcho, lawyer Felipe Gozon, led GMA management and staff in making the party guests and delegates welcome.

"This party would not have been possible if not for the collective efforts and creativity of the network team headed by Meckoy, Marla Teopaco, Wilma Galvante and Marivin Arayata," he said.

"We look forward to hosting an even more memorable and fun-filled evening in the next Ad Congress," the GMA Network president added.

A GOOD TIME is had by all. (Clockwise from top right) Antonio Aquitania takes it off. GMA Network head Meckoy Quiogue puts on his hot idea. Maureen Larrazabal likes it big. Chairman Felipe Gozon thanks the funmakers. Big winner Rhoda Gamboa (middle, above) grins and bears it with other party guests.

Did You Know...

A stall owner at the Greenhills shopping center in San Juan says one of his regular customers is a starlet who was the ex of a popular sportsman and an actor-politician (when the latter was still living with a very popular TV host and actress). According to the stall owner, the starlet buys from him a lot of pirated DVD discs, particularly of the pornographic kind.

OPENS DECEMBER 10 MAGIC 89.9
WARNING... IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU. As hot as today's headlines!
First the high fever, followed by shortness of breath, then dry cough, headache and muscular stiffness. Then a slow painful death awaits the victim as the demonic virus slowly devours your body tissues.
NO PLACE TO HIDE, NO PLACE TO RUN, EVIL STRIKES FROM WITHIN.
CABIN FEVER
CATCH IT!
LIONS GATE FILMS presents CABIN FEVER starring RIDER STRONG JORDAN LADD JOEY KERN JAMES DE BELLO CERINA VINCENT GIUSEPPE ANDREWS directed by ELI ROTH screenwriter RANDY PEARLSTEIN producers ELI ROTH LAUREN MOEWS SAM FROELICH director of photography SCOTT KEVAN composers NATHAN BARR & ANGELO BALADAMENTI

MTRCB RATING R-18 RESTRICTED Strictly for Adults Only OPENS DEC. 3
AMY AUSTRIA
KRISTOFER KING
GARDO VERSOZA
YOYOY VILLAME
KATHERINE LUNA
MARIO O'HARA'S
BABAE SA
BREAKWATER
ENTERTAINMENT WAREHOUSE INC. PRESENTATION
CATCH THE STAR-STUDDED PREMIERE NIGHT SCREENING
AT THE SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 9 ON NOV. 30 AT 8:00 PM

BONDOC

Peter Jackson saves the best of 'LOTR' for last

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—"It's quite good. Nah, it's fantastic! It's amazing, it's definitely the best," chirped Pippin Took.

Being a hobbit, you would expect Took, otherwise known as actor Billy Boyd, to enthuse wildly about the last of the Lord of The Rings trilogy—"The Return of the King," which premieres in this New Zealand capital on Dec. 1.

But the few whispers that have escaped from the sneak previews seem unanimous that director Peter Jackson has saved the best until last.

The "Return of the King" is Jackson's favorite of the three, and features more action-packed battle scenes per foot of celluloid than the others.

Based on the novels by Oxford scholar J.R.R. Tolkien, they have become some of the highest grossing movies in box office history.

The first two movies have raked in a combined $1.8 billion, neck and neck with that other fantasy phenomenon of the big screen, the young wizard Harry Potter.

Jackson, another bespectacled, shorts-wearing character, has spent seven obsessive years on the project.

The "Return of the King" concludes the journey of hobbits Frodo (Elijah Wood) and Sam (Sean Astin) to destroy the magical "one ring" on which rests the future of all in Middle Earth, helped and hindered by the grotesque Gollum (Andy Serkis) wanting to retrieve his "precious" (ring).

The second film brought the two innocents abroad towards the sulphurous Mount Doom in the evil empire, Mordor, into which they intend to throw the ring, thus preventing evil wizard Sauron from gaining total power and ruling over all.

It seems only fitting that the world premiere of the final part of Jackson's $300 million epic should be held in his native New Zealand, where he is a genuine hero loved for his shambling, disheveled looks and down-to-earth approach.

The story of good and evil is a universal one, but New Zealand, better known for its 45 million sheep and All Blacks rugby team, has happily adopted the alter ego of the "home of Middle Earth". Jackson, a former printer who cut his film-making teeth on low-budget splatter movies such as "Brain Dead," has turned Wellington, where much of the film was shot and post-production done, into "Wellywood." *Reuters*

Jimmy, Christine sing at Azzurro

ON WEDNESDAY, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m., Jimmy Bondoc, the artist behind the hit song, "Let Me Be the One," will serenade the exclusive set with his acoustic take on contemporary and standard tunes in "Hearts on Strings" at Azzurro Bistro and Lounge. Also featured in the show is lounge singer Christine Carlos.

Tickets to the dinner-show are P750.

Major presenters are Bailey's Smart Gold and Bevida Distilled Drinking Water, with Joey 92.3, 105.1 Crossover and Suigeneris Professional Sound Mobile and Light Co.

Azzurro Bistro and Lounge is at the 2nd Level of Somerset Millennium Hotel on Aguirre Street in Legaspi Village, Makati (behind AIM, from Paseo de Roxas enter Gamboa, turn left to Salcedo and left to Aguirre).

For outside catering and menu inquiries, call Azzurro at 884-2239, 889-0569 or (0917) 852-6269.

Rome-born Filipina...

From page C6

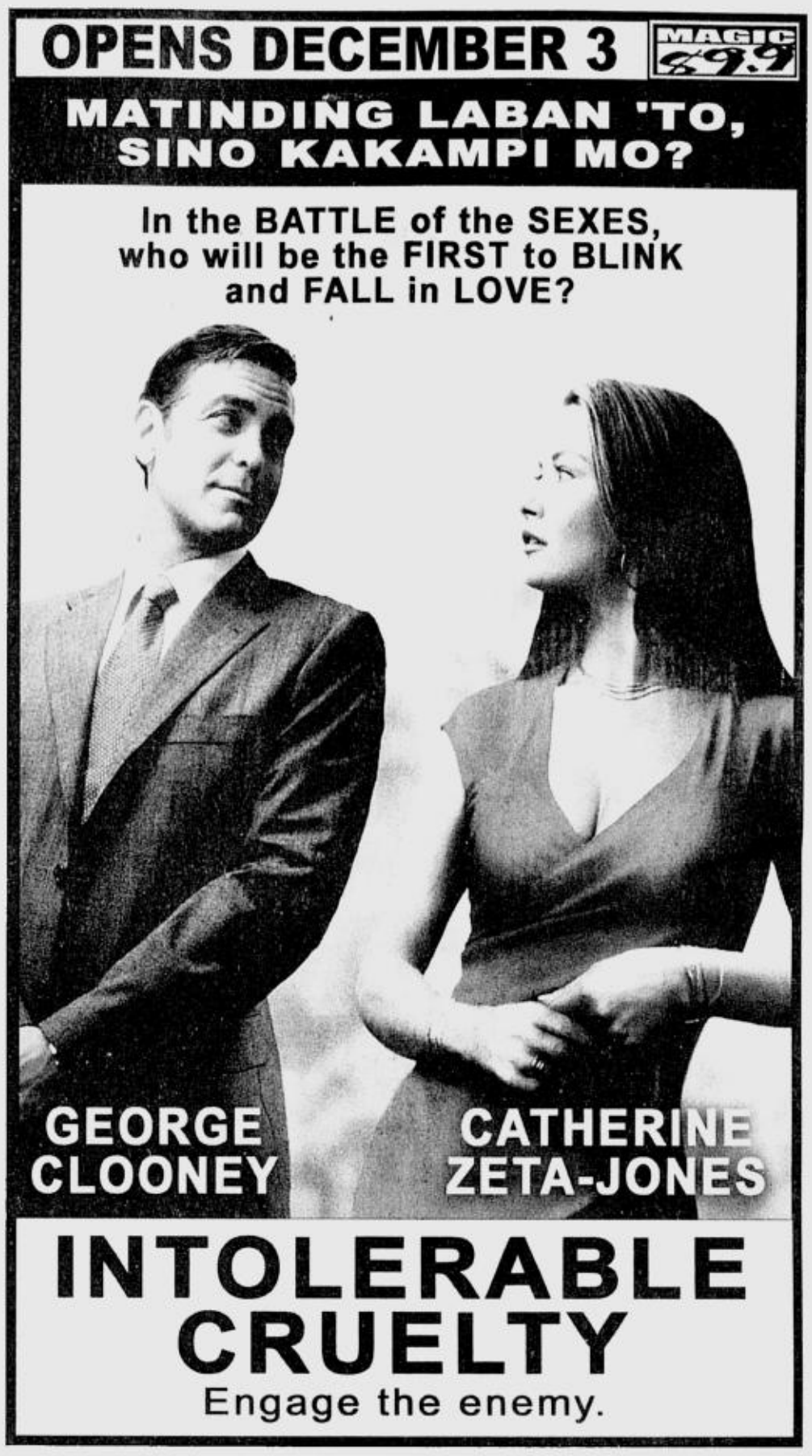
sang Paul Anka's "You are My Destiny" with Marri, and then moved on to a solo of Ricky Nelson's "Someday," where he brought the house down when he started rapping in the song's instrumental bridge, complete with all the right moves.

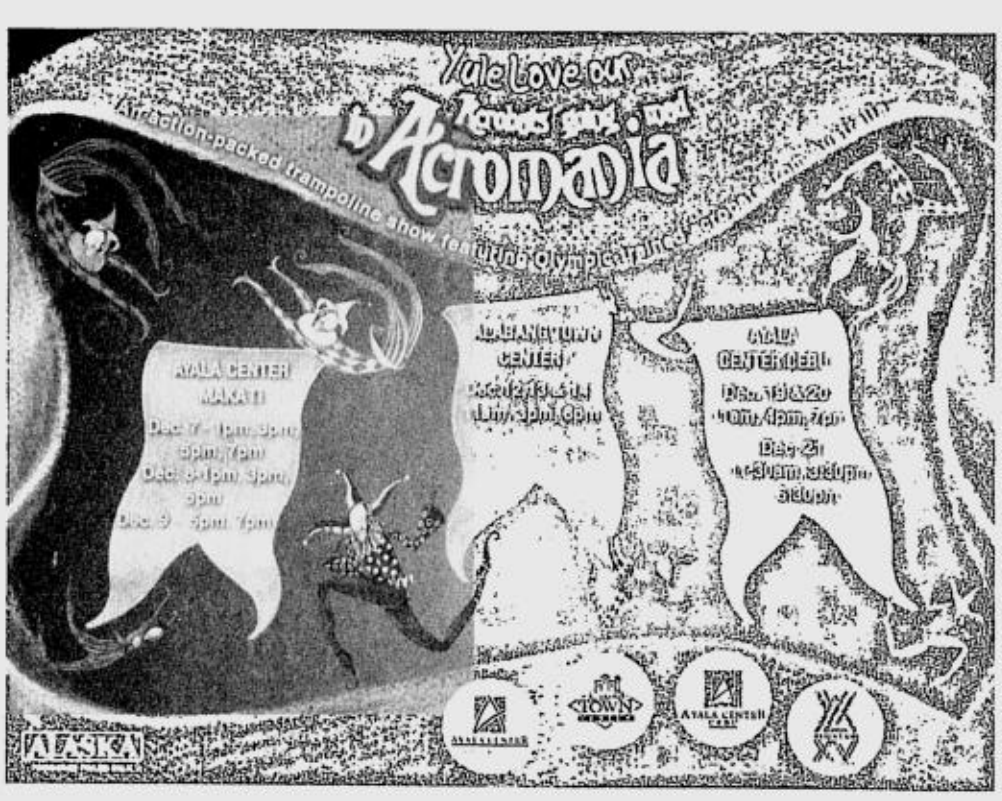
The guy can move well, having been a dancer with the CCP before he was recruited into the movies as an actor.

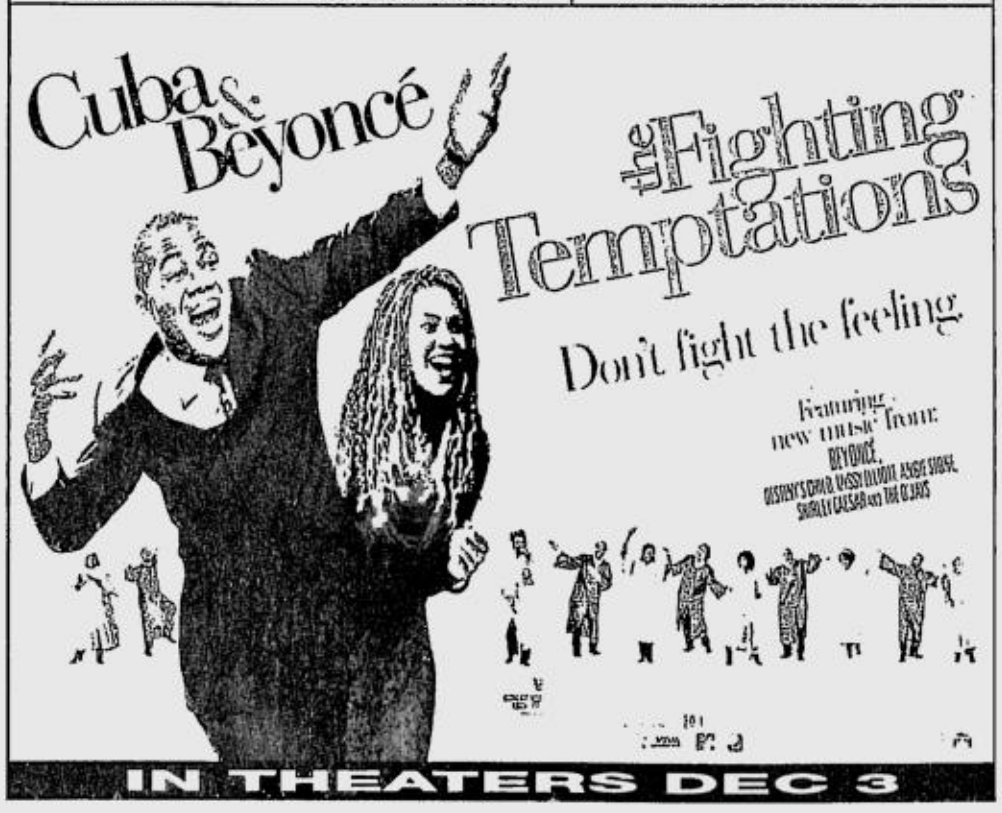
JR's rap was arranged by vocal coach-composer Raffy Amaranto, who is also Marri's vocal coach and the musical supervisor of her album.

Nonoy did a duet with his brother Zoe Zuñiga, who is also a member of Friends Inc. They also did two rock numbers, which must have surprised the crowd who knew Nonoy mostly as the balladeer who turned "Never Ever Say Goodbye" and "Kumusta Ka" into phenomenal hits. In fact, Nonoy was once a band member himself.

Marri performed other rousing numbers with her band. Since dancing is allowed in that restaurant-bar, many customers took to the dance floor right in front of the stage, unable to resist the music of Marri and Friends Inc.







Zamboanga

Ayala Cinemas and Timezone is giving you more!

Visit us at the Glorietta 4 cinema lobby on November 29 & 30 and get the chance to enter our game-filled theme park featuring Looney Tunes Back In Action.

Rome-born Filipina comes home to sing

REVIEW

By Danny Vibas
Contributor

THE YOUNG woman's voice soars as she sings of love not dying and not forgetting. The crystal voice moves you.

That voice belongs to Marri Nallos, who says she has come home to fulfill a dream that was born in Rome and nurtured in London: to become a well-loved professional singer.

Though born in Rome and raised in London, Marri considers herself very much a Filipina. After all, her parents are Filipinos, her mom being from Iriga and her dad from Cebu.

MARRI Nallos. Crystal voice

"I can't think of being any other way," she says. "Coming here to the Philippines is definitely a homecoming for me. I can't call either Rome or England my motherland. The Philippines is my motherland."

Her parents had to stay behind in London to manage the family's restaurant.

Marri has a self-titled album, launched recently at Banda Forest at the Rizal Park, where the restaurant is the first in the area to offer live entertainment in addition to sumptuous seafood.

Marri's voice has been seasoned by many years of singing in London, including at the family restaurant which was known for years as the one where "a Filipina girl with a crystal voice sings."

No wonder, then, that in her Manila show, Marri performed as well as any of the local pop divas. She was backed by her own band, Friends Inc.

She opened with a Donna Summer medley. Marri danced up a storm right in her opening number, together with back-up dancers.

Immediately changing the tempo but not the energy level, she followed up the medley with her version of the perennial crowd favorite, "Get Here." It's her favorite song, too. Marri's rendition was dramatic, with undertones of seduction and promises of a glorious reunion.

She sang three songs from her album: the carrier single "Making Love Out of Nothing at All," "Ikaw Pa Rin ang Mamahalin" and "I Didn't Mean to Hurt You." The first is a revival of an Air Supply hit. The second and third are original compositions.

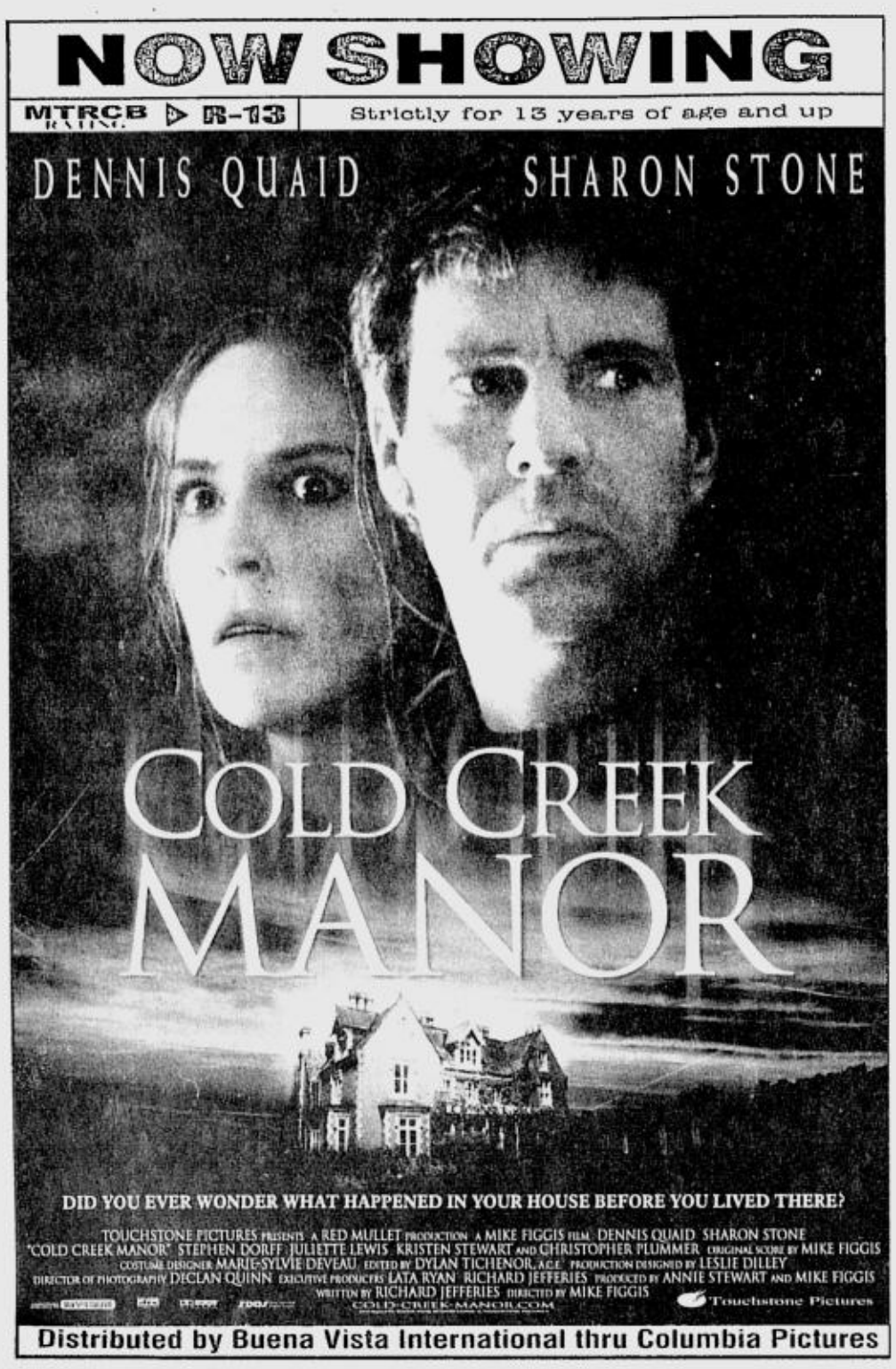
If Mariah Carey could sing in Tagalog, she would likely do it the way Marri did "Ikaw Pa Rin ang Mamahalin."

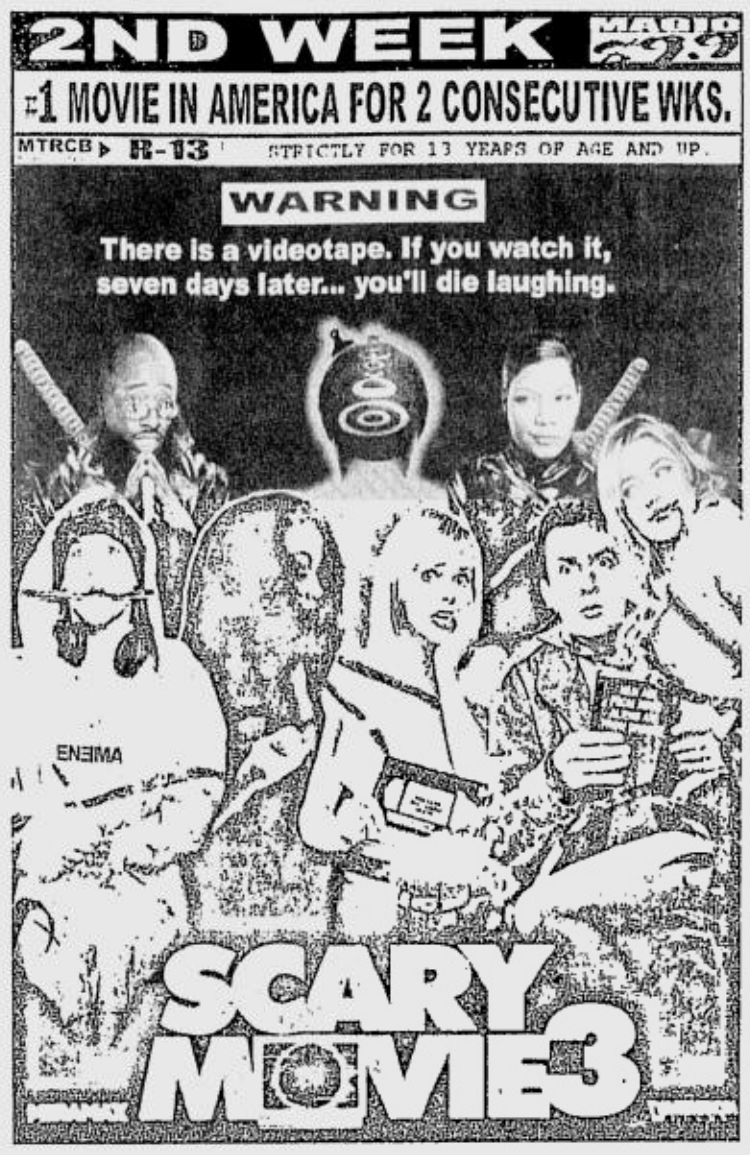
Marri did a song by the French pop artist Larusso as well as Gloria Estefan's "Oye Mi Canto."

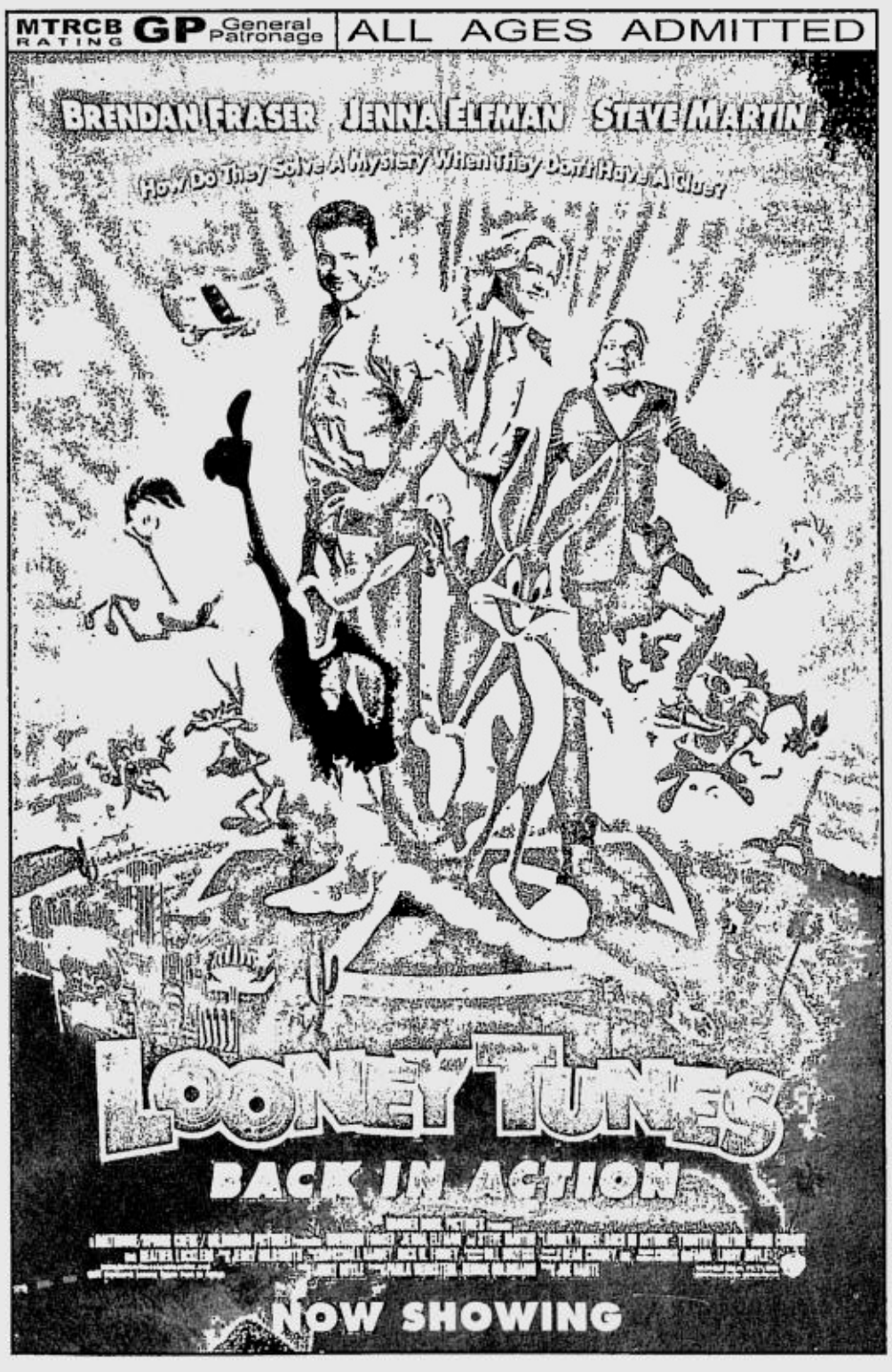
And what's a solo concert without a guest? That night, Marri had drama actor-singer Juan Rodrigo and bailadeer Nonoy Zuñiga.

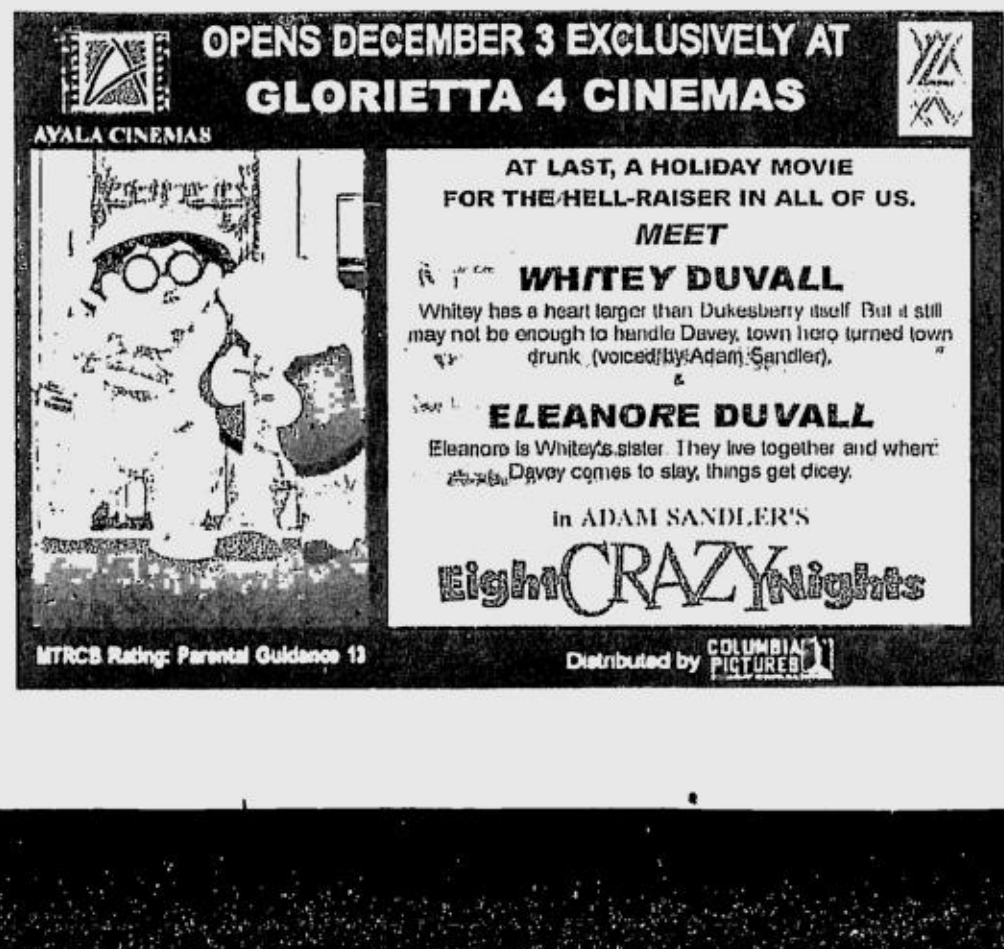
JR, which is how the actor is fondly called, has been singing in shows here and abroad even while he was practically the "King of Pinoy Soap Operas" long before the likes of Eddie Garcia, Christopher de Leon, and Richard Gomez became part of the networks' telenovelas. JR's forte is romantic ballads, particularly the oldies but goldies type. He

ROME/ C5









Nickelodeon empowers kids through Big Help

By Armin Adina

NICKELODEON Philippines brings to the country one of its mother network's groundbreaking projects—The Big Help.

The project started in the United States in 1994, encouraging children to pledge hours to volunteer in their communities. Last year, The Big Help was first launched in Asia, starting with Singapore. This year, it has come to the Philippines, and Nick-Philippines hopes to involve more children in it.

"It is our way of empowering kids to give something back to the community by giving their time, clothes or toys," said Myrna Moñozca, marketing and communications manager of Nickelodeon Philippines.

A toy run is set on Dec. 6 at Toy Kingdom in SM Megamall. Five lucky children will each be given four minutes inside the toy store to grab all the toys they want to take home.

Aside from giving toys to the children, Nickelodeon is donating the equivalent amount of all the toys won by the five children to Springboard Foundation, an institution dedicated to the promotion of a healthy lifestyle for children.

The foundation's Give-a-Life project, in particular, will directly benefit from the donation.

The project is aimed at renovating government hospitals and purchasing medical equipment.

Nickelodeon chose the Springboard Foundation because it "wanted to support a foundation that was in dire need," said Moñozca.

She added that "putting our funds in the renovation . . . and getting equipment . . . that a lot of kids can use is a better option."

Pledge forms have been distributed among 14 Metro Manila schools and all Toy Kingdom branches since Nov. 4.

The deadline for submission of entries was originally scheduled on Nov. 25 but was moved to Dec. 2.

Pledges—of how the kids will give back to the community—will be judged on their content and the creativity of the presentation. Entries may be submitted as a drawing, a sculpture or any form of visual art.

Nickelodeon also promised to give children double the fun and the excitement through the movie "Rugrats Go Wild." The animated flick brings together two of Nickelodeon's hottest properties—the Rugrats and the Wild Thornberrys. With "Rugrats Go Wild," the network expects to surpass the success of the two earlier Rugrats movies and this year's Wild Thornberrys movie.

The movie premiered last Saturday in simultaneous screenings at SM Megamall and SM Cebu. Today at 11 a.m., Glorietta Cinema will play host to children.

Grab-all-you -can spree at Disney store

DISNEY Channel gives you a chance to win a trip to the Disney Store in Hong Kong or Tokyo plus over 6,000 cool prizes when you tune in to "Disney's Ogle Goggle," 5-6 p.m., from now until Dec. 19.

An interactive TV game, Disney's Ogle Goggle invites kids to search for a mystery word on their screens every weekday during the Ogle Goggle hour. The catch is that they can only read the mystery words through a clever visual device called Ogle Goggles, which the Disney Channel is distributing to all viewers.

To get a pair of Ogle Goggles and to register your mystery word entries, log on to www.disneychannel-asia.com or write to Disney Channel P.O. Box 1110, Singapore 914037.

Prizes get bigger each week. Beginning week one, 100 t-shirts will be given away. By week five, 5,000 copies of 2004 calendars will be up for grabs.

During the weeks in between, 200 Kim Possible toys, 300 funky mouse pads and 400 new Lizzie McGuire frisbees will be given away.

Weekly grand prizes include a grab-all-you-can spree to the Disney Channel store in Hong Kong or Tokyo, three hi-tech computers, four Lizzie McGuire-style animated alter ego mementos and five digital cameras.

OGLE GOGGLES. Log on to www.disneychannel-asia.com or write to Disney Channel to get a pair of these to help you get the mystery word.

DID YOU KNOW...

During the Nov. 19-22 Ad Congress, many stars were seen lunching at Baguio's Café by the Ruins. On Nov. 21, seen there were Power Four's **Greg Martin** and **Frank Garcia** with **Jeoff Rodriguez, Tanya Garcia**, sweethearts **Mylene Dizon** and **Paolo Paraiso**, talent manager **Paolo Bustamante**, who accompanied his ward **Brad Turvey**, and Merk's Bistro's **Richard Merk** and wife **Roni Tapia** who put up a satellite Merk's Bistro in Baguio for the Ad Congress.

O'Hara explores 'Breakwater' world

KATHERINE LUNA. Beauty, pain

WHEN director Mario O'Hara explored the Manila Bay breakwater area, the world-famous sunset was the last thing he saw. Instead, he discovered a world that is more brilliant than the fading rays of the setting sun, murkier than the waters of the dying bay, but grittier than the jagged edges of the shoreline rocks.

It is this world that he explores and tries to understand in his new film, "Babae sa Breakwater," which tackles the struggles for survival and the daily acts of heroism of the denizens of Manila's famous shoreline.

"It's a colorful world that is fraught with danger and carnal sensibilities that we would only understand if we were to explore it personally," said O'Hara.

He tapped newcomers Katherine Luna for the role of the breakwater prostitute—around whom the story revolves—and Kristofer King for the male lead.

Her search for stardom had strengthened Katherine's resolve to be unfazed by whatever controversy show biz would bring.

"I am lucky I landed this role," said the 18-year-old. "There were so many girls who auditioned for the role. But I was told that Direk Mario had seen in me what he envisioned the character to be."

O'Hara said Katherine's "aura of youthful worldliness contrasts starkly with her refreshing beauty," and that he saw pain and experience in her eyes.

"Babae sa Breakwater" also marks the entry of newcomer Entertainment Warehouse Inc. to the local movie scene.

Nielsen survey says GMA's radio stations rule airwaves

GMA Network's radio stations DZBB and DWLS have registered high ratings, according to the latest Nielsen Media Research survey results.

In the 5-8 a.m. block in July, important hours of the day, Super Radyo Double B ranked No. 1, beating DZMM, while DWLS rated as the No. 1 pop station, said Radio GMA Inc. president and news anchor Miguel "Mike" Enriquez.

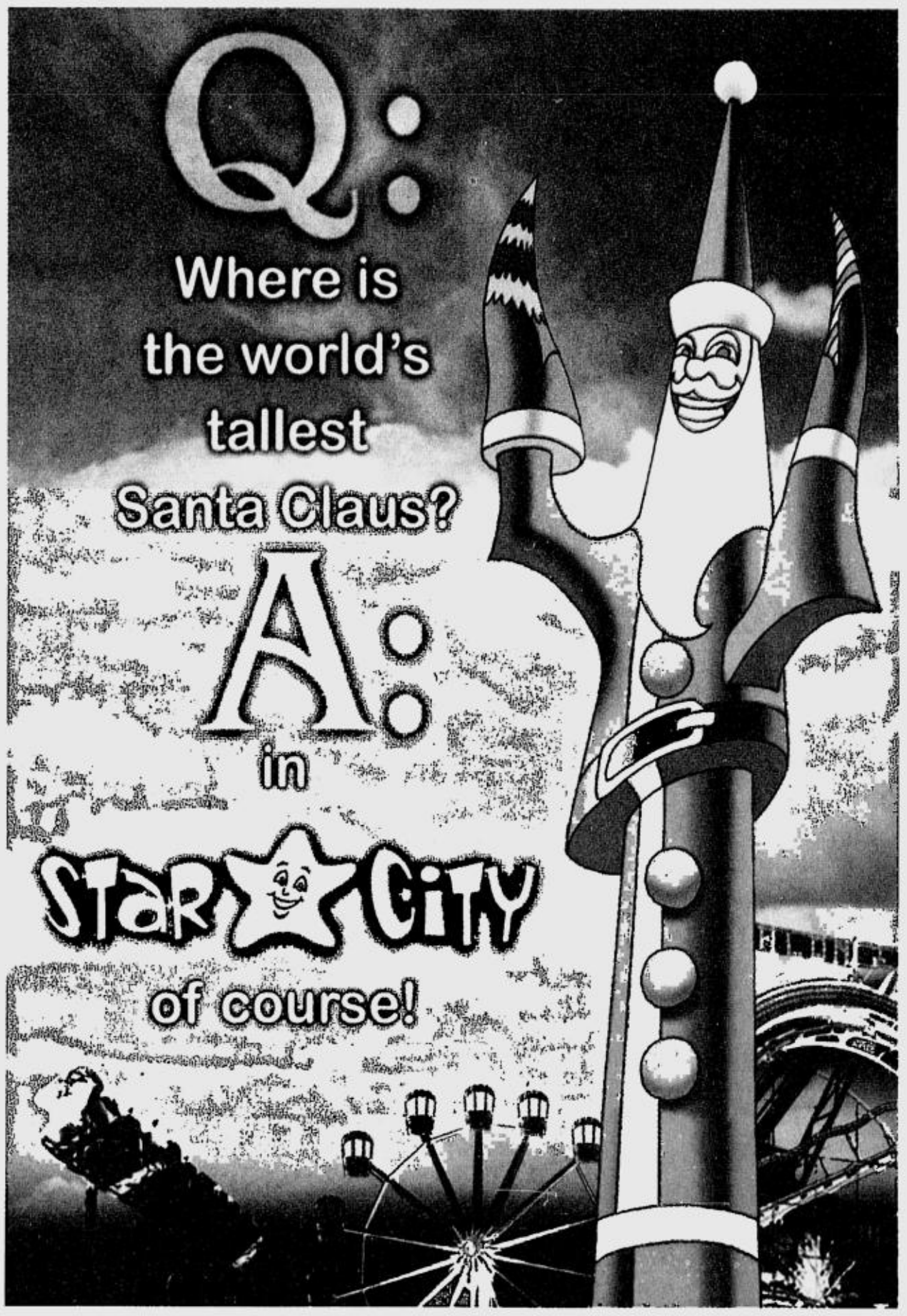
"DZBB's number one ratings were boosted by credible news content and sharp news analyses by anchors Arnold Clavio, Rene Sta. Cruz and Gani Oro," said Enriquez in a statement.

"For DWLS, the consistency of the pop music and the staging of successful events contributed to its dominance in the airwaves," said GMA Metro Manila radio operations manager Fred Cortez.

According to him, DZBB will soon have new celebrity anchors, "journalists who are well-known for their award-winning work in GMA 7's News and Public Affairs who will surely make the station's anchor line-up the most powerful on AM radio."

DWLS has "new, fresh, younger disc jockeys," the radio operations manager added.

SHOW TIME



Juday 'couldn't have had...

From page C8

Judy Ann is five days behind in her taping schedule for "Basta't Kasama Kita" and she would be busy taping for the show until Monday.

Judy Ann plays Princess, a young law graduate, while Robin is Ambet, a policeman, in "Basta't Kasama Kita," shown weekday nights on ABS-CBN.

"Juday and Robin's relationship has not changed," said Alfie. "They are still very good friends. Let people believe what they want to believe. They just want to destroy Juday and Robin's friendship."

On Nov. 21, Judy Ann, Nikki, John and Bayani performed at the Parthenon I of the Alexis Garden in Las Vegas in a show called "The Young Superstar, The Young Diva, The Universal Sweet and The Otso-Otso King."

Filipino fans from California, Alabama, New Jersey, Colorado and other places went to Las Vegas to watch Judy Ann's group, according Alfie. There were also several fans from Switzerland.

The same group performed at the Alex Theater in Glendale, California the following day.

On Nov. 23, Judy Ann flew to Chicago to do a show with John and Aiza, who came from a show in Canada.

From Chicago, Judy Ann flew to California the following day for a pictorial for the print ad of Reel Plus, a video shop owned by Roselle Monteverde, the daughter of Regal Films Matriarch Lily Monteverde.

ENTERTAINMENT

Juday 'couldn't have had an abortion'

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTRESS Judy Ann Santos, rumored to have been made pregnant by her telenovela costar Robin Padilla, was so busy during her weeklong trip to the United States that she could not have had the time to abort the alleged baby, according to her manager Alfie Lorenzo.

Judy Ann flew to the States last Nov. 19 to perform in a series of shows in Las Vegas, California and Chicago with fellow Filipino performers Aiza Seguerra, Nikki Valdez, Bayani Agbayani and John Lapuz.

Judy Ann, the star of the telenovela "Basta't Kasama Kita," flew back to Manila last Wednesday morning on board Northwest Airlines, said Alfie, who joined the star in the US trip but came home ahead of her last Tuesday.

"Juday's (the actress' nickname) schedule had been so hectic," Alfie told INQUIRER Entertainment last week. "How could she include an abortion in her itinerary?"

When the pregnancy rumor spread about two weeks ago, before she and her manager flew to the US, Alfie had said he was worried that Judy Ann's absence might spark another rumor—that she went to the US to have an abortion.

But Judy Ann hardly had the time to even go shopping or sight-seeing in the States, Alfie said a day after his return to Manila. "Besides, she was closely followed by her fans wherever she went."

The pregnancy rumor started going around after Robin's wife of 17 years, Liezl Sycangco, said in a phone call to "Startalk" on GMA 7 that she had decided to split from her husband, citing another woman, whom she did not identify, as the reason. Liezl made the call from Australia, where she and their four children have been living for three years.

The day after Liezl's tearful phone call, Robin said on "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN that he was leaving the telenovela so he could be with Liezl and their children in Australia.

Robin reportedly returned last Friday from Queensland, Australia.

"Thank God they did not arrive on the same day," Alfie said. "I'm sure people would have speculated that they were in the US together."

He said that because of the US trip,

JUDAY/ C7

TOO BUSY. Judy Ann simply didn't have the time even if she was pregnant, says Alfie.

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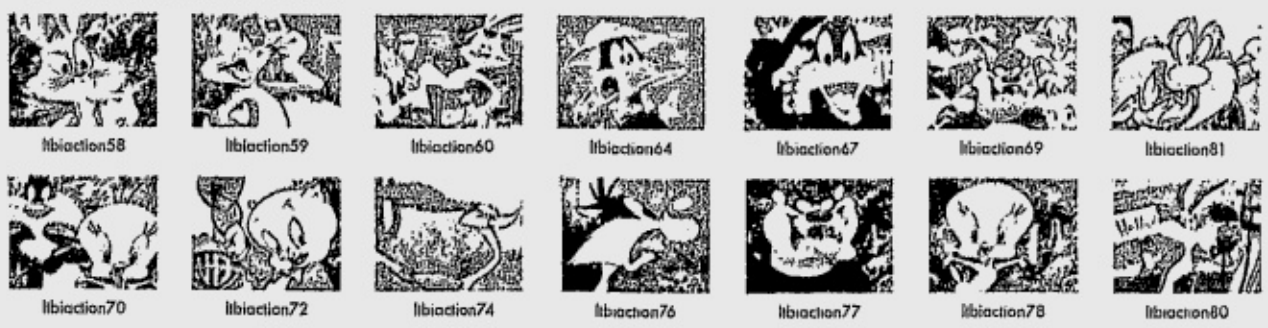

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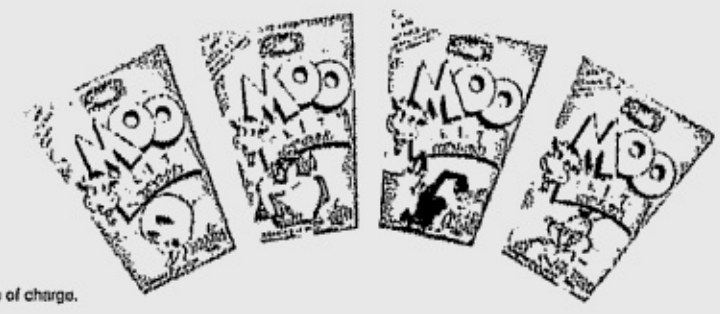

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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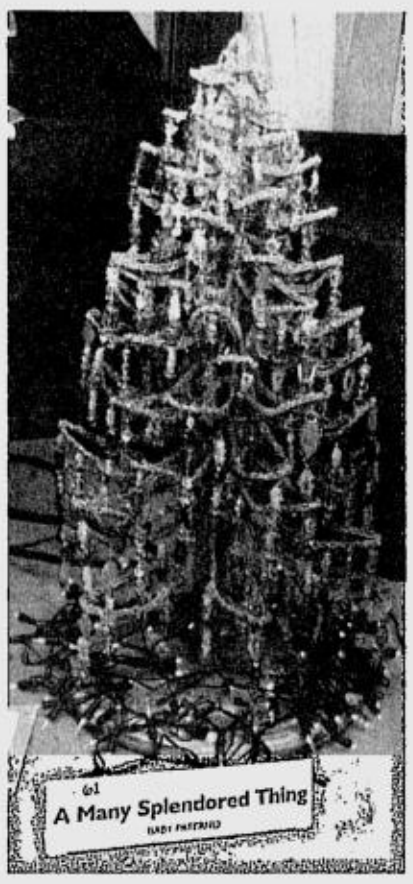

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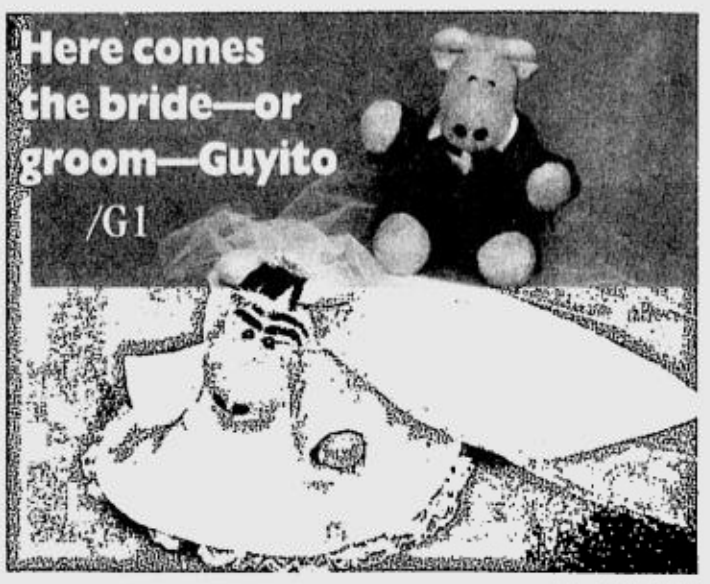

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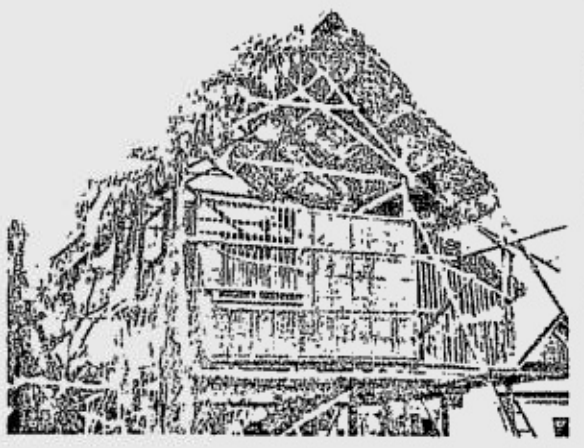

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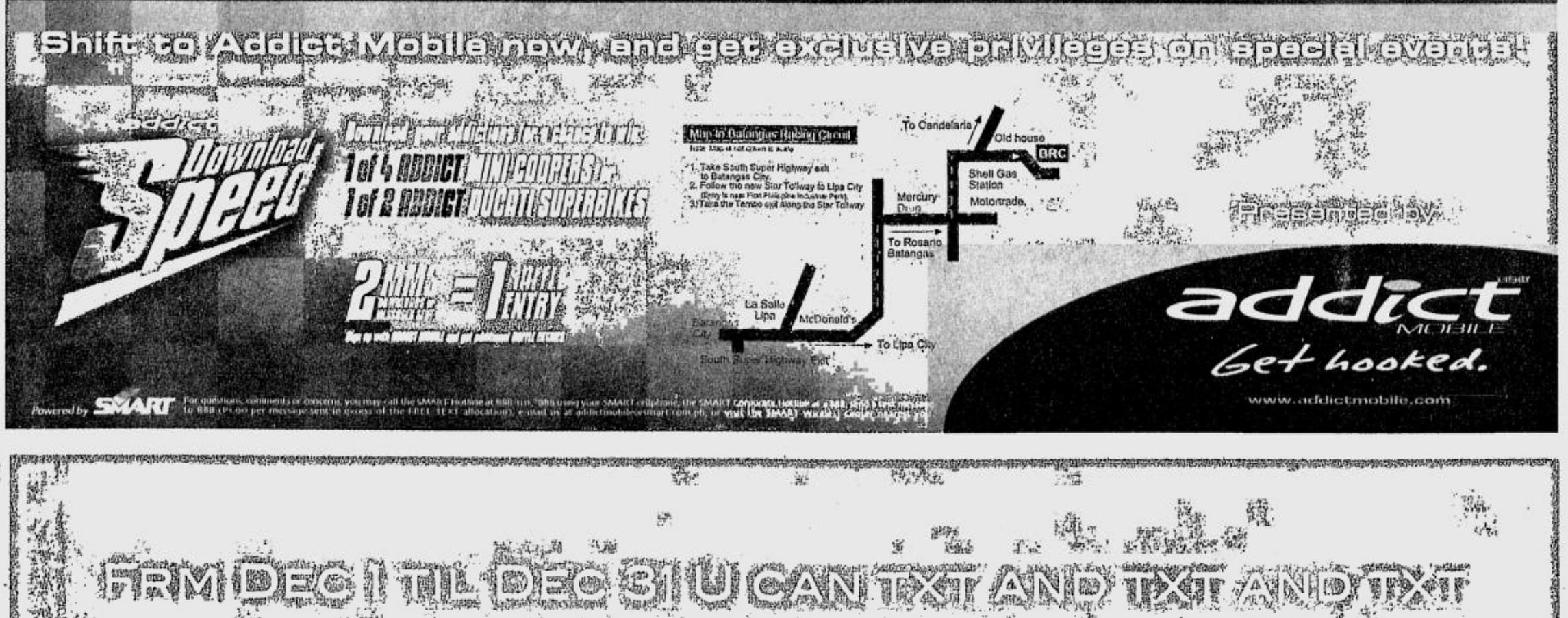

FRM DEC 1 TIL DEC 31 U CAN TXT AND TXT AND TXT

Philharmonic holds free concert

THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) performs at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 12, at the Folk Arts Theater front lawn, Cultural Center of the Philippines complex. The Loboc Children's Choir and Chorus Philippines are guest performers. The free show, fourth in PPO's concert series, marks its 30th anniversary.

Included in the repertoire are Christmas songs by both Filipino and foreign composers like V. Rubi-Celerio's "Ang Pasko ay Sumapit," S.Y. Ramos' "Himig Pasko," R. Cayabyab's "Kumukutikutitap," J. Brandy's "Mano Po Ninong," M. Wilder's "Reflections," R. Regney/G. Shayne's "Do You Hear What I Hear," R. San Jose's arrangement of "Silent Night" and "Adeste Fidelis," RP de Leon/L. Celerio's "Pasko Na Naman" and G.F. Handel's "The Messiah".

Bohol's Loboc Children's Choir performs classical, folk, contemporary songs and Original Filipino Music medleys.

Headed by choirmaster-composer Joy T. Nilo, Chorus Philippines draws its membership from such groups as the Church Choir—The Cathedral of St. Mary and St. John of the National Cathedral of The Episcopal Church in the Philippines, Lyceum Music Ensemble of Lyceum of Batangas, Voci de la Fede of Manila, the Philippine Chamber Choir, and former members of The San Miguel Master Chorale and The Philippine Madrigal Singers.

Call 8323681/8323878/5517930/8321125 loc. 1800-1807.

THE POWERPUFF Girls, the kindergarten heroines

Power

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

IS THERE a more stressful place during the holidays than the overcrowded shopping mall?

But before the crowds could put a damper on your holiday spirit, Robinsons Malls offer an irresistible come-on: Christmas concerts for all shoppers.

Robinsons Malls and Cartoon Network have recently forged a partnership to give families a festive holiday entertainment during the holiday rush; it is dubbed "A Cartoon Network Christmas Concert at Robinsons Malls."

The series of concerts will feature the cute crime-fighting trio of the Powerpuff Girls. The pint-sized super heroines who save the world before bedtime will hit the stage in a musical show starting today.

And since this is a musical, you'll see Blossom (the redhead), Bubbles (the blonde) and Buttercup (the Brunette) grind, sing and perform their own versions of popular hits and danceable tunes like Britney Spears' "Oops, I Did It Again," in specially choreographed numbers.

Other Cartoon Network stars, such as Dexter, Dee Dee, Johnny Bravo and Mojo Jojo will join the kindergarten favorites.

"The Powerpuff Girls will be performing modern dance hits in true Girl Power form as Mojo Jojo attempts to ruin the concert. Kids and their parents will be excited to find out what the Girls can do to save the day!," says Eunice Gonzalez, Robinsons Mall's advertising and promotions director.

It will only be the second time that the 45-minute musical will be staged in Asia; it had its first successful mounting in Singapore last year. "It's definitely a must-see production which the whole family shouldn't miss," Gonzalez adds.

The adorable large-eyed lasses have captured the imagination of most children and their parents. The Powerpuff Girls is the Cartoon Network's highest-rated show. The Girls enjoy a tremendous following, spawning a comic book, merchandising gimmicks and a movie.

Catch the Girls, Mojo Jojo, Johnny Bravo, Dexter and Dee Dee in a special concert, which starts at 4 p.m. at the following malls: Nov. 30 at Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa, Dec. 13 at Robinsons Place Imus, Dec. 14 at Robinsons Place Dasmarinas and Dec. 19 at Robinsons Metro East.

Two shows, scheduled at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., are set on Dec. 6 at Robinsons Starmills Pampanga, Dec. 7 at Robinsons Place Novaliches, Dec. 20 at Robinsons Galleria and Dec. 21 at Robinsons Place Manila.

There will also a Meet and Greet session so shoppers get to interact with and take photographs of the cartoon stars. The Powerpuff Girls Meet and Greet Sessions and magic shows with free face paintings will be held Nov. 30, 3 p.m. at Robinsons Place Bacolod, Dec. 6, 3 p.m. at Robinsons Place Cebu and Dec. 21, 3 p.m., at Robinsons Place Lipa.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

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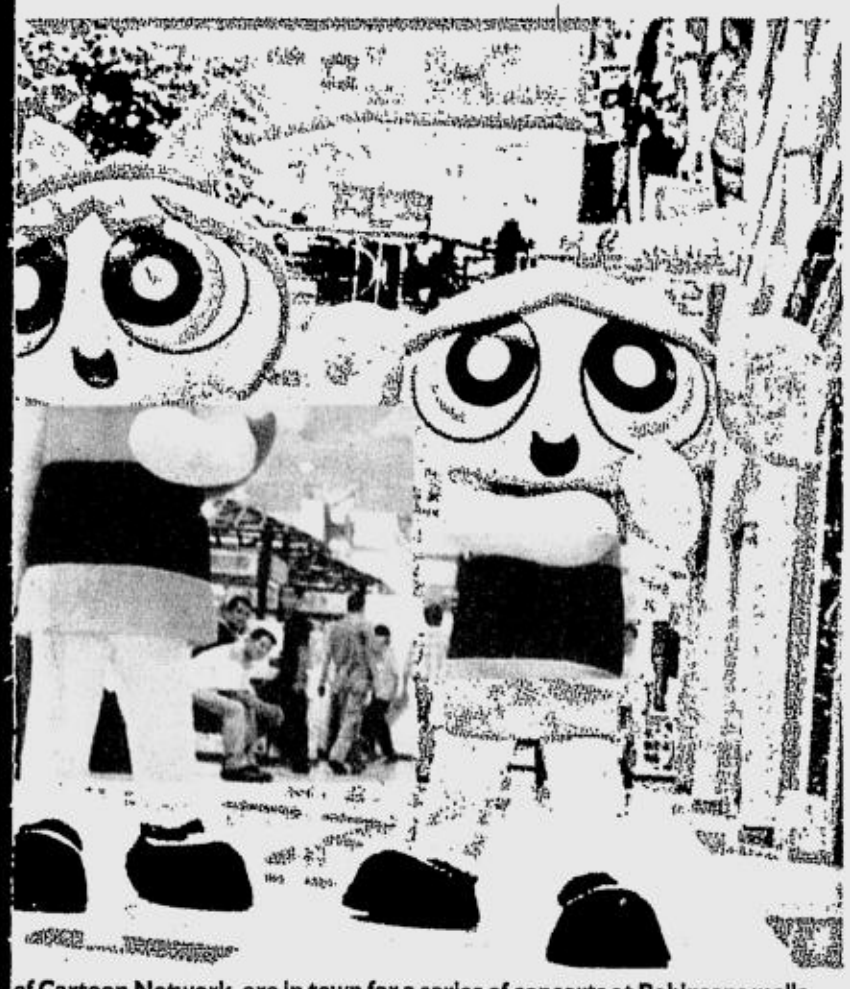
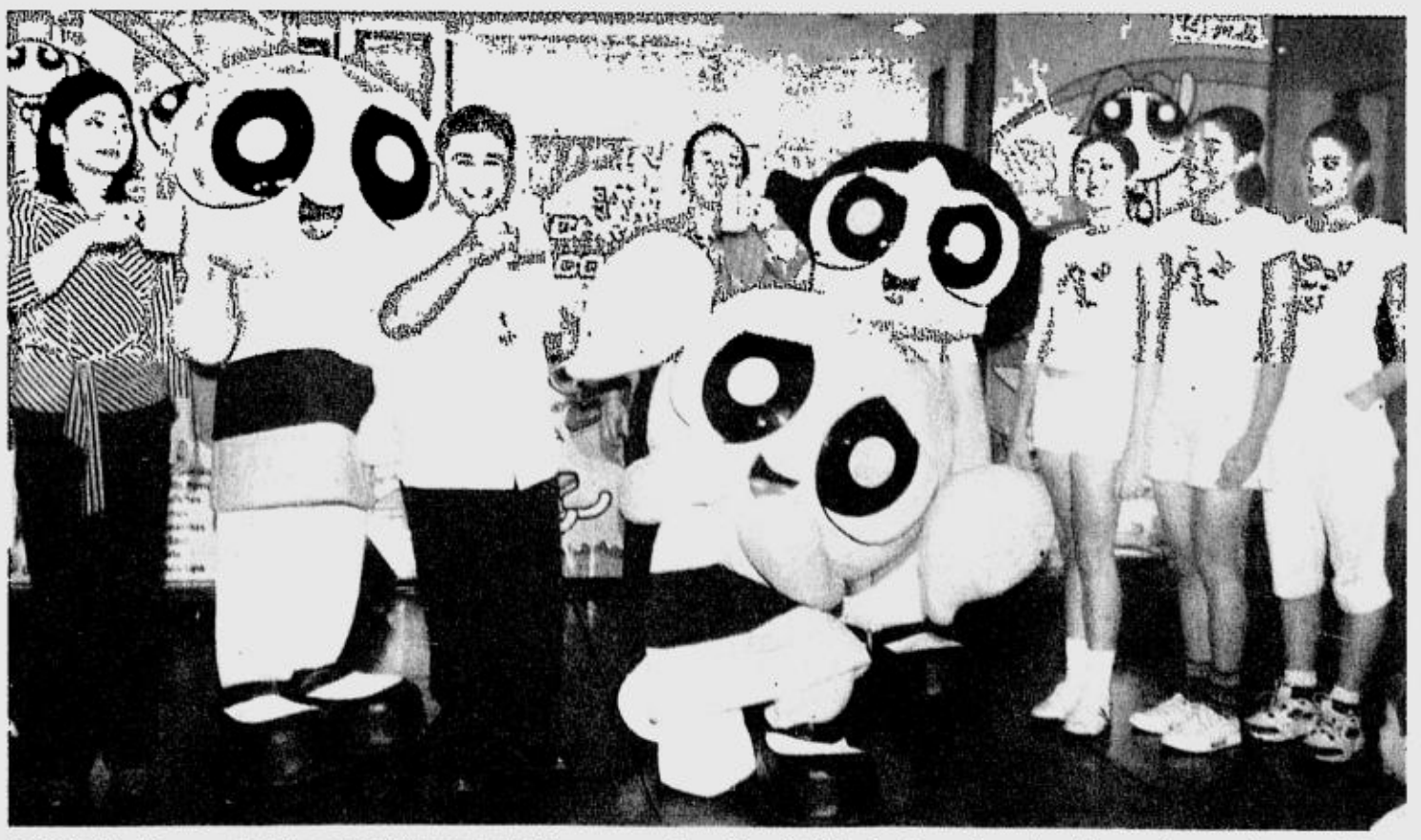


of Cartoon Network, are in town for a series of concerts at Robinsons malls.



A TOAST to Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup by Robinsons executives (from left) Eunice Gonzales, advertising and promo director; Nilo Mapa, general manager; and Tommy Lee O, vice president for complex administration, with Ms Robinsons finalists PHOTO: ERNIE SARMIENTO

entertainment in the mall

The Powerpuff Girls will puff their way into Robinsons Malls and numerous tykes' hearts this Christmas season

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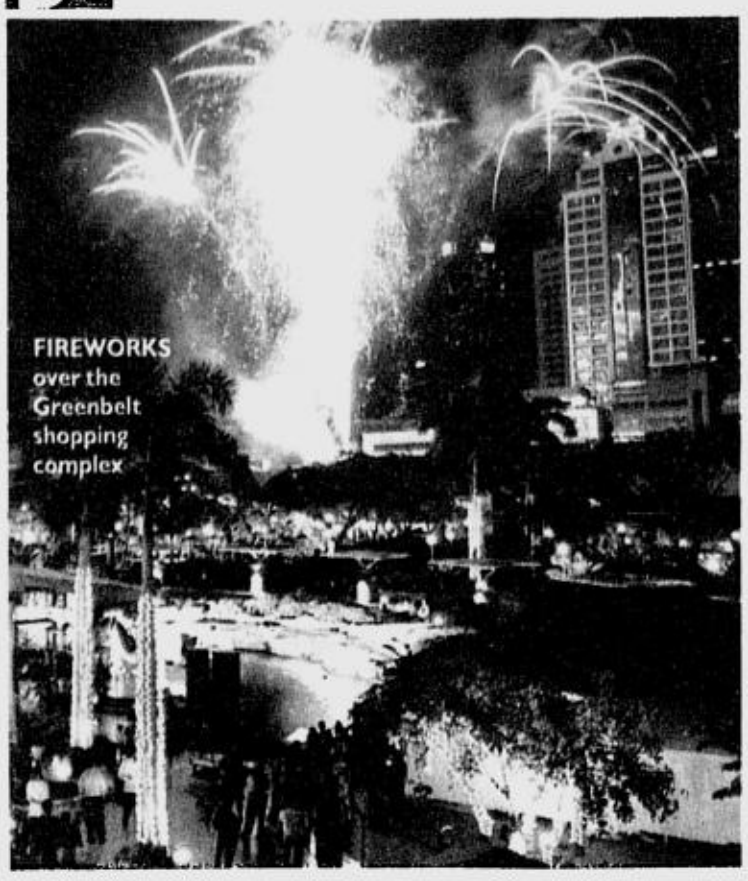
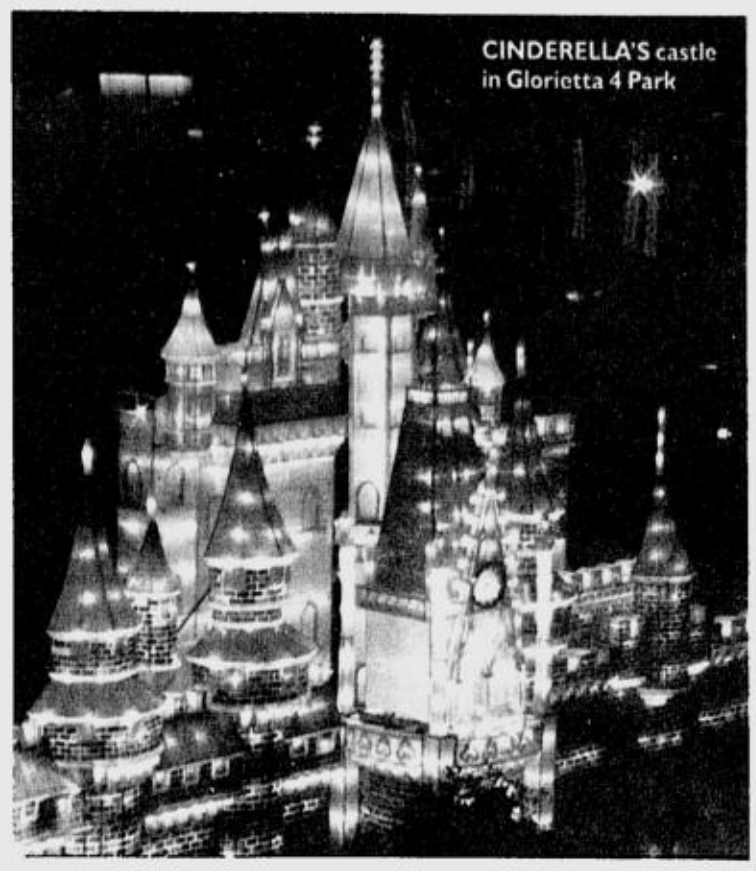

FIREWORKS over the Greenbelt shopping complex

Christmas at Makati malls

AYALA Malls recently launched its Christmas activities with a spectacle of Christmas lights, huge Disney lanterns officially lighted at Glorietta 4 Park (Cinderella's Castle) and Glorietta 3 Park (101 Dalmatians) as Dianne dela Fuente and Christian Bautista sang some of Disney's hit songs. A fantastic fireworks presentation painted the skies to the tune of acclaimed musical scorer Louie Ocampo's orchestra masterpiece, especially composed for the Ayala Malls fireworks display.

Ayala Malls Fireworks 2003 will grace the Glorietta 4 Park every 8 p.m. and Greenbelt 3 park, 9 p.m., Alabang Town Center, Saturday and Sunday, until Dec. 28, 7 p.m., Ayala Center Cebu today and Dec. 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 and 30. Acromania of Australia will have the following shows: for Ayala Center Makati, Dec. 7 (1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.); Dec. 8 (1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m.) and Dec. 9 (5 p.m., 7 p.m.); Alabang Town Center: Dec. 12, 13, 14 (11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m.); Ayala Center Cebu: Dec. 19 and 20 (11 a.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m.) and Dec. 21 (11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.).


CINDERELLA'S castle in Glorietta 4 Park

Meet Santa this Christmas

DREAMSCAPE, the fully air-conditioned indoor family amusement park and entertainment center, has lined up activities to add fun to family holiday celebrations. Among the activities is a special meet and greet session with Santa Claus 12-1 p.m., 2-3 p.m., 4-5 p.m. Dec. 22 and 29 at the Center Stage Area.

Featured at 3 p.m., Dec. 13 and 14 is "Christmas Dreamscapades," a musical play and fashion show featuring children aged 12 and below.

Performers from Kids @ Play Center for Arts and Development Company presents the musicale "The 12 Days of Christmas" Dec. 19-21.

The Sampaguita Performing Group from Great Britain, composed of kids aged 4-16, will be featured 4 p.m., Dec. 22 and 29.

The group will be promoting its "Children of the World" album from Ivory Records. The performance will be preceded by a parade around Robinsons Galleria with a drum and lyre group at 3 p.m., Christmas Day.

Dec. 26 presents comic magician Rizalino John Esguerra in the "Magic of Christmas" at 1 p.m.

A series of live performances by LSJ Strings at the Dreamscape Center Stage Area will be held Dec. 26 and 28 and drum and lyre performances on Dec. 22, 25, 27 and 29, and Jan. 1, 2004 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Dreamscape is at the 4/L Robinsons Galleria. Call 6317594.

THE SAMPAGUITA Performing Group

Mall holds lighting ceremony

THE ROBINSONS Malls officially welcomed the holiday season with a lighting ceremony held recently at the fountain area of Robinsons Place Manila. Gigantic poinsettias, festooned with thousands of lights literally blazed the Christmas display of the mall.

Giant boxes wrapped in festive colors and huge ribbons, candy canes and "poinsettia chandeliers" complete the hanging tableau.

Red, green and gold, the traditional colors of the season were highlighted more with an interesting color combination that included splashes of fuchsia, electric blue and canary yellow.

The program opened with a mini concert, featuring Los Ruiz Señores de Letran, school children from Letran College. This was followed by special appearances of Santa, Ms Robinsons finalists and Jolina Magdangal.

A highlight of the event was the turnover of donations to the Edsa Shrine Free Clinic and the recognition of donors who supported the Gift of Change, Robinsons Malls' advocacy project.

The evening was capped with the lighting ceremony which was graced by Councilor of the 5th District Boy Ysip, together with Robinson's general manager and Jolina Magdangal.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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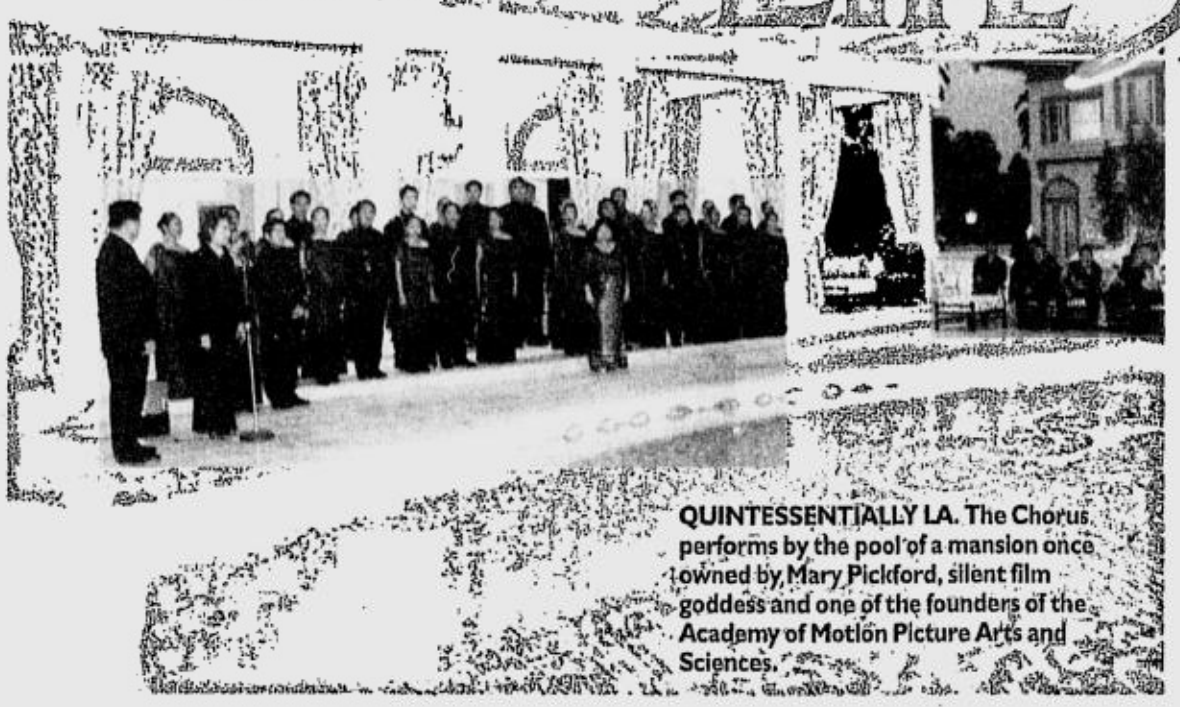

QUINTESSENTIALLY LA. The Chorus performs by the pool of a mansion once owned by Mary Pickford, silent film goddess and one of the founders of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

A so-LA climax to UP Concert Chorus' international tour

Text and photos by Janet and Ruben Nepales
LA Correspondents

LOS ANGELES—The University of the Philippines Concert Choir (UPCC) recently concluded its gold prize-winning 2003 international concert tour here with a so-Hollywood mini concert at a Beaux Arts mansion, where silent film diva Mary Pickford used to live, and now home to UP alumni Edwin and Dr. Lani Raquel.

And what could be more LA than having the concert by the pool?

Guests gathered around the pool as the UPCC members showed the style and virtuosity that made them win the top prize in the 51st Guido d'Arezzo International Polyphonic Competition in Italy and three gold prizes in the Forderkreis Internationale Chortage in Mainhausen, Germany.

Emeritus Consul General Edwin Bael and his wife Betty organized the celebration to honor the UPCC's 33 singers and conductor/artistic director, Prof. Janet "Jai" Sabas-Aracama, to climax their 15th international concert tour.

The chorus also represented the Philippines in the 31st Aberdeen International Youth Festival and the prestigious Europa Cantat XV Festival. It was Aracama's first time to conduct the group in an international concert tour since taking over from her mentor, the late esteemed Dean Rey Paguio.

With the grounds of the Raquel home serving as a beautiful setting, the choir, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, performed a diverse repertoire of polyphonic, sacred, Broadway, Filipino folk, ethnic and pop songs.

In this city full of contrasts and rich with immigrant experiences, what can be more striking than listening to the choir sing Gary Granada's silly but humorous lyrics to "Mabuti Pa Sila" in the former home of a Hollywood legend that is now owned by a successful Filipino couple?

Lounging in the splendor of this estate (Muhammad Ali used to live next door) while listening to Granada's 1998 Metropop-winning lyrics like "*Mabuti pa ang mga surot, laging mayroong masisiksikan*" and "*Mabuti pa ang galunggong nasasabihan ng 'mahal',*" we couldn't help but smile, even chuckle at this wonderful incongruity or synchronicity.

The wonder was that most of these songs were delivered by the chorus' attractive members with full choreography, yet nobody fell in the pool.

The invitation-only audience, a mix of prominent personalities from LA's international diplomatic community, entertainment, arts and culture, government and business, rose on the other side of the pool at the end of the mini concert to applaud the UPCC.

Guests also congratulated the Baels for successfully organizing the event on such short notice. Dr. Francoise Balabanian, former president of the International Philharmonic Association of Los Angeles, told Betty, "What a privilege to have been invited to such an incredible performance. I can't thank you enough for such an uplifting soiree."

Design house

The evening's success was made more remarkable when we learned that the Raquels and their pretty young daughters had actually just moved back in the day before. Edwin, who is a top executive at AIG SunAmerica Inc., said he and his family had to live elsewhere while their house was opened to fund-raising tours as the chosen 2003 Design House of the Assistance League of Southern California.

For three months since September, this mansion in exclusive Hancock Park (actress Angela Bassett and many celebrities live here) served as a showcase house for a worthy cause—to assist individuals and families in need in the greater LA area. (The house has been seen on films and TV series like "Rocky," "Rich Man, Poor Man" and "Murder She Wrote.")

Melba Lim, former consul and herself an erstwhile member of the UPCC, thanked and presented flowers to the Baels and Raquels, who are among the most active boosters of Filipino culture in Southern California.

The event, presented with the help of the UPCC Alumni Foundation Inc. members liv-

A SO-LA/ E2

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CHORUS members relax in the garden beside the mansion's ballroom before their performance.

THE OFFICIAL State University choir performs an eclectic repertoire of fully choreographed sacred, polyphonic, gospel, Broadway, and Filipino folk and pop songs.

A so-LA climax to UP Concert Chorus' international tour

From page E1

ing in LA, raised funds for the UPCC, which was scheduled to fly home the following day after seven months on the road in the US and Europe and away from their classes at UP.

When we asked some of the chorus members the first things they would do when they land in Manila, no one was more definite in his plans than tenor Raymond Roland: "Enrolll!"

As for their most memorable experience on the road, several members will cherish for a long time "the two-minute standing ovation given to us in Aberdeen, Scotland."

When we asked Aracama for the most amusing incident, she recalled with a smile the moment when the pants button of a male chorus member broke loose and his trousers dropped onstage in Italy. Obviously, it wasn't part of a fully choreographed number.

The semi-"Full Monty" was probably caused by that UPCC member "eating too much pasta," said Aracama with a laugh.

THE AUDIENCE gives UPCC a standing ovation.

UP ALUMNA and event organizer Betty Bael; Dr. Kay Sidhu, a member of the International Committee of the Philharmonic Association of LA; Ginger Barnard, deputy chief of protocol, Los Angeles County; and Dr. Francoise Balabanian, former president of the International Committee of the Philharmonic Association of LA

DIABETES and LIFESTYLE

Dealing with Diabetes

When you were told, after a fasting glucose test, that you have diabetes, did a gateway in your mind open up, releasing a powerful current of tangled thoughts?

Bringing you back to the reality of the diagnosis, was your doctor taking you through the Next Steps. You may remember asking yourself "What now?" as if those "Next Steps" were not the answers.

Stages of Dealing

Information as jolting and life changing as being diagnosed with diabetes involves stages of dealing with change. According to Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross*, a psychiatrist, initially there is Denial, then Anger, Bargaining, Depression and finally Acceptance.

DENIAL Denial at the onset is normal. It only becomes a problem when you stay in this phase too long, delaying you from learning more about your condition and the diabetes management and self-care that it requires.

ANGER You are angry at the whole world and blame everyone for your diabetes. To you, diabetes is an enemy. You are angry because you foresee how diabetes will change your life. Anger, in fact, is a defense against the fears and threats of diabetes and its complications. Anger stands in for all your anxieties.

BARGAINING Change has to start somewhere and it is usually here. You strike a deal with yourself. Pass up on dessert, start brisk-walking or give up chocolates. All seem a good enough deal to start with. But you know there is more to diabetes than these.

DEPRESSION Controlling one's blood glucose level and keeping it close to normal is toughest. Strict diet, mandatory exercises, regular check-ups and tests... tedious, making you feel hopeless. Getting stuck in this stage can also sabotage your management of your diabetes. Depression tempts you to give up all the "musts".

ACCEPTANCE You could simply wake up to a good morning and realize that there is life after diabetes. You are thinking more clearly. You are more comfortable facing the changes brought about by diabetes and you are now ready to look at the brightest side of life. You begin your "To Do" list.

Where do you go from here?

There may still be cloudy days ahead but you know it is just a stage and you can always look forward to better days.

One practical solution to smile about is **Glucerna SR!** **Glucerna SR** is a convenient low-calorie meal or snack replacement for diabetics complete with all the essential vitamins and minerals. **SR** stands for slow release carbohydrate that results in a lower blood glucose level. The fat formulation is high in Mono-unsaturated Fatty Acids that help keep lipid levels in check and provide other benefits for cardiac health. It is also lactose-free and gluten-free with soluble fiber content that is healthy for the gut. **Glucerna SR** is available in delicious buttery caramel vanilla flavor.

Needless to say, Acceptance opens you up to new interests and discoveries! Look around . . . you may even discover a new you!

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, M.D is a psychiatrist and the author of the groundbreaking On Death and Dying. According to her there are five stages that a dying person goes through when they are told that they have a terminal illness. This model has been used by other authors and applied to many other situations where someone suffers a loss or change in social identity. She has earned a place as the best-loved and most-respected authority on the subject.

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ABBOTT LABORATORIES

RP as world's Christmas capital

THIS year, the Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) has launched a unique and heart-warming showcase of what is good and excellent—what is "*galing*"—about being Filipino through the Pamaskong Galing Pilipino (PAP) 2003 project.

The project aims to rally Filipinos here and abroad to project the Philippines as the "Christmas capital of the world."

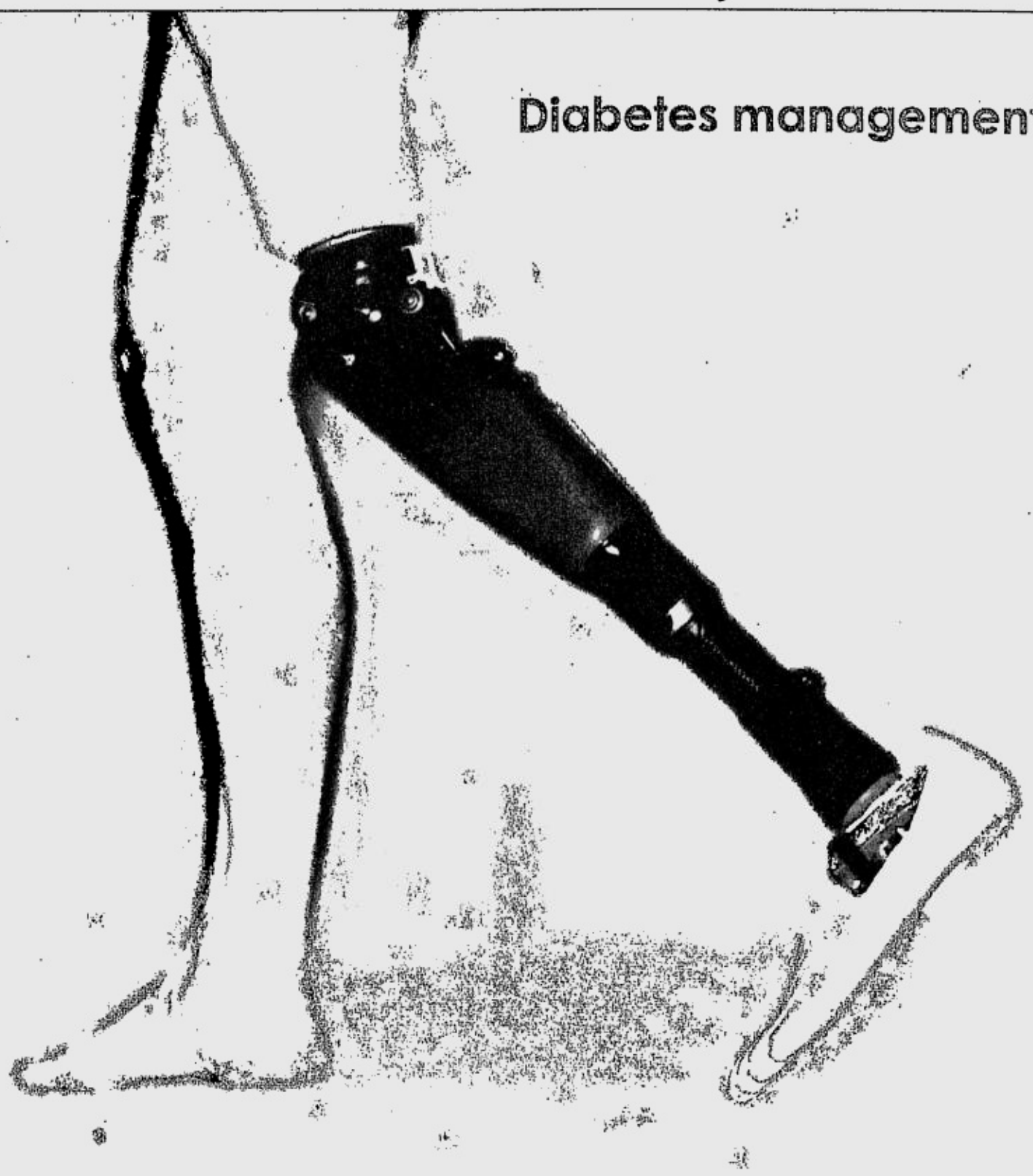
GPM will spearhead the "Light-a-Tree-for-Unity" project, a fund-raising drive for the benefit of five major causes, using Christmas trees and light bulbs as the medium of donation.

Red bulbs will go to the Red Cross, green bulbs to Bantay Kalikasan, yellow for SOS Children's Villages Philippines, blue bulbs for Peace-Build Mindanao and white bulbs for Caregiver Centers for the Elderly.

Corporations or groups can sponsor PGP trees for P150,000. Individuals can make colored bulb donations at P150 each. Donors may also select the cause to which their donation will be applied. The United Architects Association of the Philippines provided the Christmas tree design.

On Dec. 16 at 7 p.m., the project will be launched with the simultaneous first lighting of the PAP trees at the Luneta Park and the singing of "Pasko Na Naman," hopefully in unison by every Filipino wherever he or she may be in the world.

Call 6313932 or 9872259, fax 6331089 or visit www.galing-pilipino.com.



Diabetes management is not a walk in the park.

Uncontrolled blood sugar can lead to debilitating or severely damaging complications such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease and amputations.

Take the first step in glucose control with Glucerna SR.

Small steps can have huge payoffs. Making Glucerna SR a part of your diet and exercise regimen can give you better glycemic control and improved quality of life.

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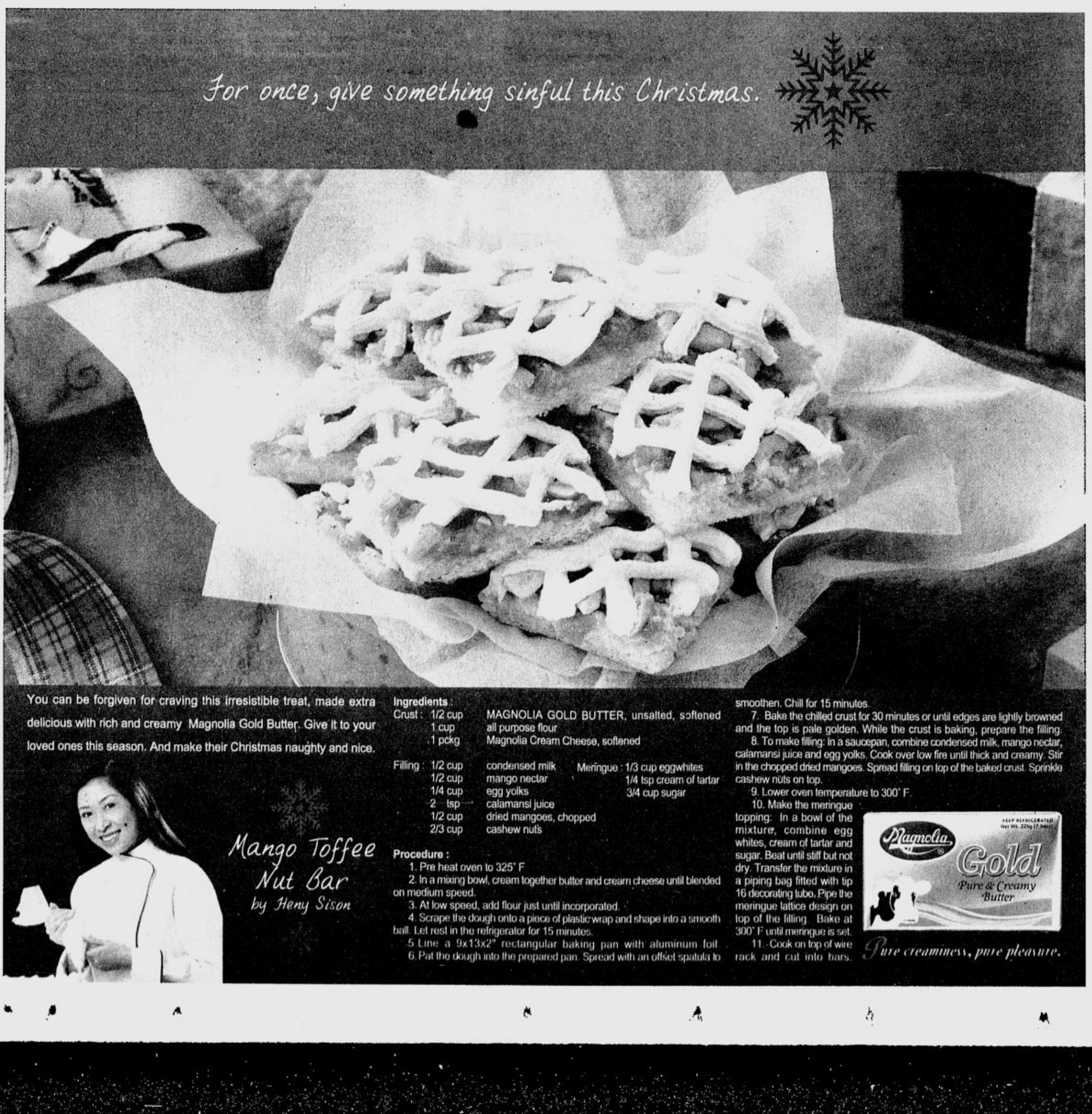

You can be forgiven for craving this irresistible treat, made extra delicious with rich and creamy Magnolia Gold Butter. Give it to your loved ones this season. And make their Christmas naughty and nice.

Mango Toffee Nut Bar
by Heny Sison

Ingredients :

Crust : 1/2 cup MAGNOLIA GOLD BUTTER, unsalted, softened
1 cup all purpose flour
1 pckg Magnolia Cream Cheese, softened

Filling : 1/2 cup condensed milk
1/2 cup mango nectar
1/4 cup egg yolks
2 tsp calamansi juice
1/2 cup dried mangoes, chopped
2/3 cup cashew nuts

Meringue : 1/3 cup eggwhites
1/4 tsp cream of tartar
3/4 cup sugar

Procedure :

1. Pre heat oven to 325° F
2. In a mixing bowl, cream together butter and cream cheese until blended on medium speed.
3. At low speed, add flour just until incorporated.
4. Scrape the dough onto a piece of plastic wrap and shape into a smooth ball. Let rest in the refrigerator for 15 minutes.
5. Line a 9x13x2" rectangular baking pan with aluminum foil.
6. Pat the dough into the prepared pan. Spread with an offset spatula to smoothen. Chill for 15 minutes.
7. Bake the chilled crust for 30 minutes or until edges are lightly browned and the top is pale golden. While the crust is baking, prepare the filling.
8. To make filling: In a saucepan, combine condensed milk, mango nectar, calamansi juice and egg yolks. Cook over low fire until thick and creamy. Stir in the chopped dried mangoes. Spread filling on top of the baked crust. Sprinkle cashew nuts on top.
9. Lower oven temperature to 300° F.
10. Make the meringue topping: In a bowl of the mixture, combine egg whites, cream of tartar and sugar. Beat until stiff but not dry. Transfer the mixture in a piping bag fitted with tip 16 decorating tube. Pipe the meringue lattice design on top of the filling. Bake at 300° F until meringue is set.
11. Cook on top of wire rack and cut into bars.

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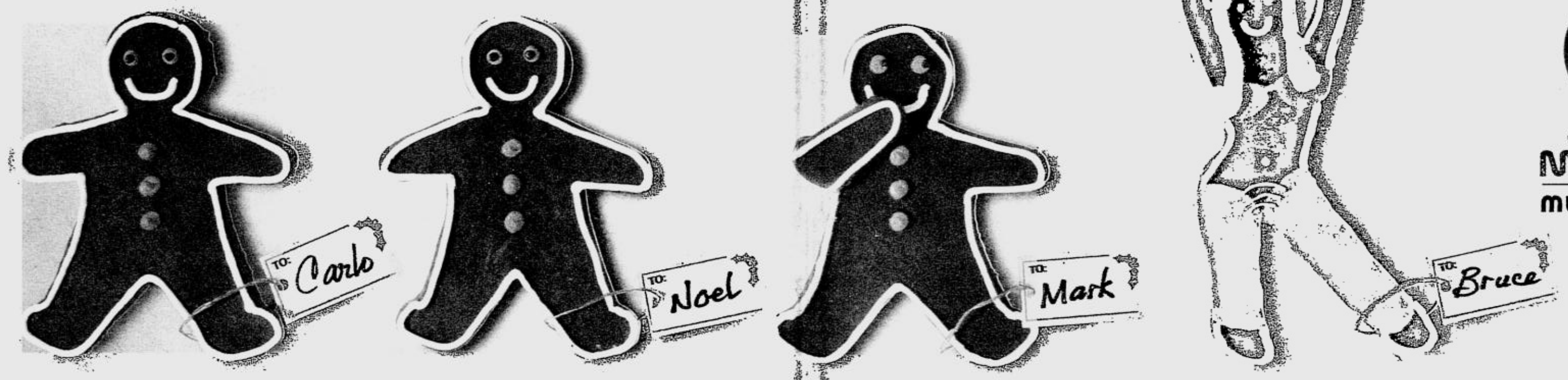

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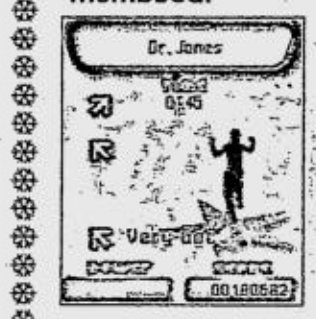

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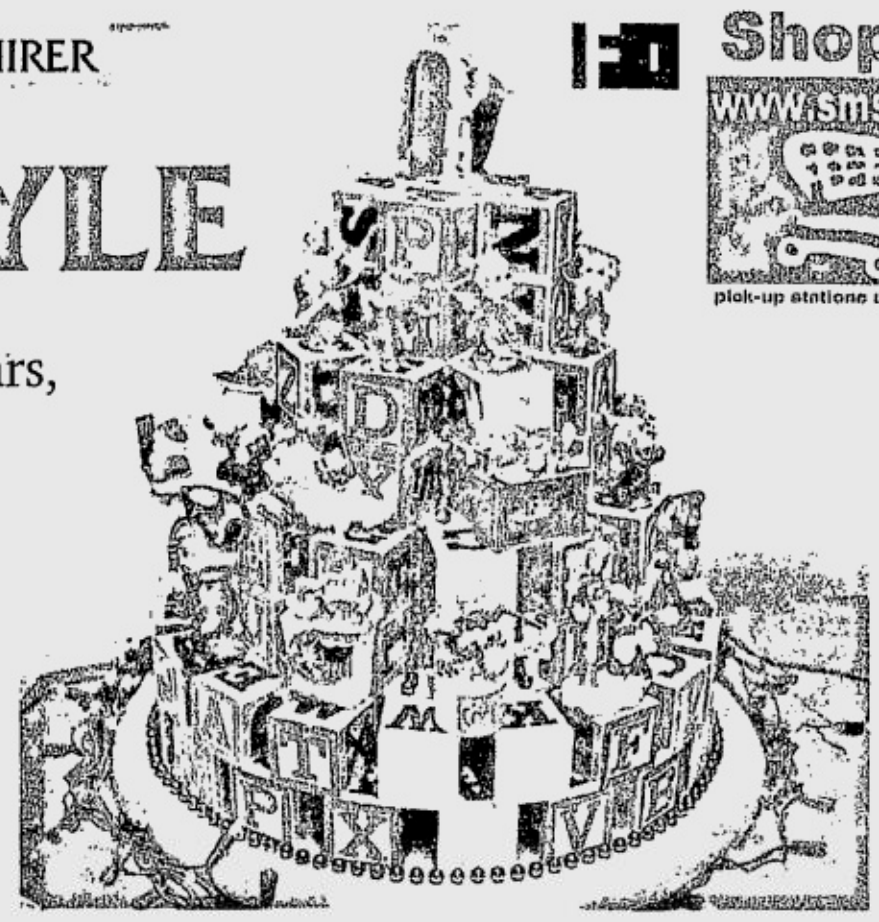
The trees of life

For the past nine years, the Festival of Trees has been raising funds—and hope—for the poor communities of Maqueda Bay, Western Samar



HOLIDAY BLOCKS. A two-foot tree with colorful toy blocks and other ornaments on a lazy Susan designed by Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio

Text by Jasmine W. Payo
Photos by Johnny Villena

JUST as Christmas feasts can mess up your diet, the excitement of holiday shopping can bust your budget. It's a season that prompts splurging, which leaves you feeling guilty after the festivities are over.

Splurging, though, can be guilt-free when you're helping the needy.

It's this belief that inspired Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, president of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and chair of the Makati Garden Club (MGC), to launch the Festival of Trees nine years ago.

The festival raises funds for the less fortunate by auctioning off themed Christmas trees, as well as paintings and valuable items donated by artists. With the help of Rubio's family and well-heeled friends, the event has been raising an average of P7 million annually.

THE TREES/ F2

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The trees of life

THE EGGS AND I. A glittering solid brass tree trimmed with handpainted eggs created by Perez-Rubio

From page F1

This year, the dinner-dance party was held at the Manila Polo Club, Makati, with a Maria Clara theme. Guests from the business and horticulture industries came in barongs and elegant Filipiniana gowns.

There were 65 items up for bidding, but the auction's highlight was "Yellow Lillies," a 32" x 25" oil on canvas painting by world-renowned artist Anita Magsaysay-Ho. It was eventually sold to Unilab president Carlos Ejercito for P2.4 million.

Other favorite Christmas trees auctioned off were Baby Paterno's A Many-Splendored Thing (a two-foot tree made of semi-precious gems like peridot, amethyst, pink quartz, turquoise, citrine, crystal) and Ruby Tree (a tabletop Christmas tree adorned with rubies); and Perez-Rubio's The Maria Clara Tree (a six-foot tree decked with 80 miniature dolls in Filipiniana costumes) and The Eggs and I (a two-foot solid brass tree trimmed with hand-painted eggs).

There were also interesting items sold like the Harlequin (three harlequin candleholders) donated by Ging delos Reyes; Little Child's Chair (a kid's chair with needlepoint cover by Paterno) donated by Sonya Garcia; Holiday Blocks (colorful toy blocks and other ornaments on a lazy Susan) by Perez-Rubio; and Bella Filipina (a 21-inch doll made of polymer clay with a dress made of *sinamay*, *lina*, linen) by fashion designer Bubum Melgar.

PBSP president and MGC chair Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio with Unilab president Carlos Ejercito, who successfully bidded for Anita Magsaysay-Ho's "Yellow Lillies" for P2.4 million

CARLYN Manning and Andres Soriano III

No doleout

But beyond the fun dinner-dance and auctions, Perez-Rubio said she also wanted the guests to recognize the needs of the poor communities in Maqueda Bay, Western Samar, the festival's beneficiary since 1997.

"We hope the project will generate not just funds but also awareness, partnership and a conscious effort to [work for] those who have less," she said.

Perez-Rubio stressed that although all proceeds of the auction go to Maqueda Bay, it's no doleout. The local residents are actively involved as well in the community development projects of PBSP's Samar Resource Management Program.

"MGC and PBSP have been working hand-in-hand with the people of Samar in preserving the areas of their livelihood," she said.

Like a mother who has nurtured and seen

TREE HOUSE. A two-foot Christmas tree decked with miniature birdhouses designed by Perez-Rubio

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FESTIVAL guests and donors: (clockwise, from left photo) Ramon Sy, Mindy Perez-Rubio and Isabel Wilson; Luli Delgado, Josephine Knox and Victoria Tuazon; OV and Marilen Espiritu with Raul and Menchu Concepcion; and Lorenzo Tan, Ruby Roa and Jose Cuisia

er child grow, Perez-Rubio proudly related the ransformation of the farming and fishing commu- ities in Western Samar.

As the story goes, Maqueda Bay was once a de- leted fishing ground where people use dynamites nd trolleys for volume catch, and indiscriminately ut down mangroves. Today, however, the area is onsidered one of Samar's most successful commu- ity projects.

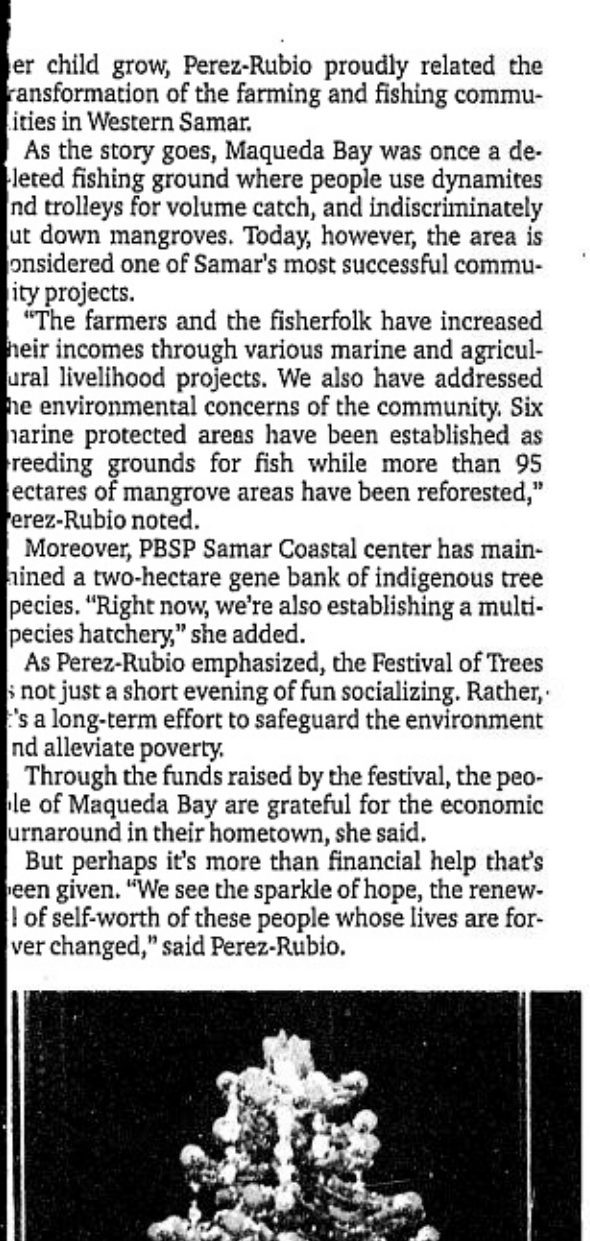
"The farmers and the fisherfolk have increased heir incomes through various marine and agricul- ural livelihood projects. We also have addressed he environmental concerns of the community. Six arine protected areas have been established as reeding grounds for fish while more than 95 ectares of mangrove areas have been reforested," erez-Rubio noted.

Moreover, PBSP Samar Coastal center has main- ined a two-hectare gene bank of indigenous tree pecies. "Right now, we're also establishing a multi- pecies hatchery," she added.

As Perez-Rubio emphasized, the Festival of Trees s not just a short evening of fun socializing. Rather, 's a long-term effort to safeguard the environment nd alleviate poverty.

Through the funds raised by the festival, the peo- le of Maqueda Bay are grateful for the economic urnaround in their hometown, she said.

But perhaps it's more than financial help that's een given. "We see the sparkle of hope, the renew- l of self-worth of these people whose lives are for- ver changed," said Perez-Rubio.



RUBY TREE. A tabletop Christmas tree adorned with rubies made by Baby Paterno

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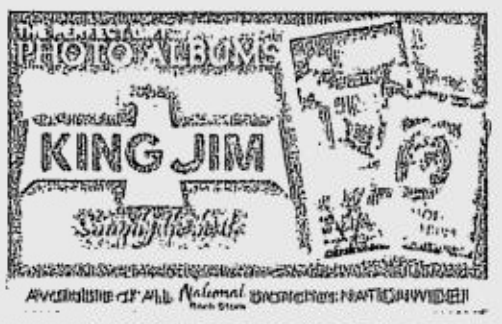

Chic carabao on the catwalk

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Chito Vecina

INQUIRER's mascot Guyito in Eddie Bubbles wedding finery; (left) detail of the headdress and veil

YOU'RE invited to witness an exchange of (cara)vows.

When the INQUIRER's mascot, the cute gray calf named Guyito, says "I moo," er "I do," not just one but 10 of the country's top fashion designers, no less, generously share their talents to come up with their interpretations of its and its bride's wedding frocks.

Okay, Guyito (who is gender-less, by the way) may be too young to get hitched as it's only turning 18 next month on the INQUIRER's 18th anniversary, but in the make-believe world of dolls and stuffed animals, it's enough that it looks marriageable, the better for creative people to have an excuse to make wedding designs.

Award-winning photojournalist Chito Vecina's cbv7 Media Master, with the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, Metro Weddings, Philippine

CHIC/ G2

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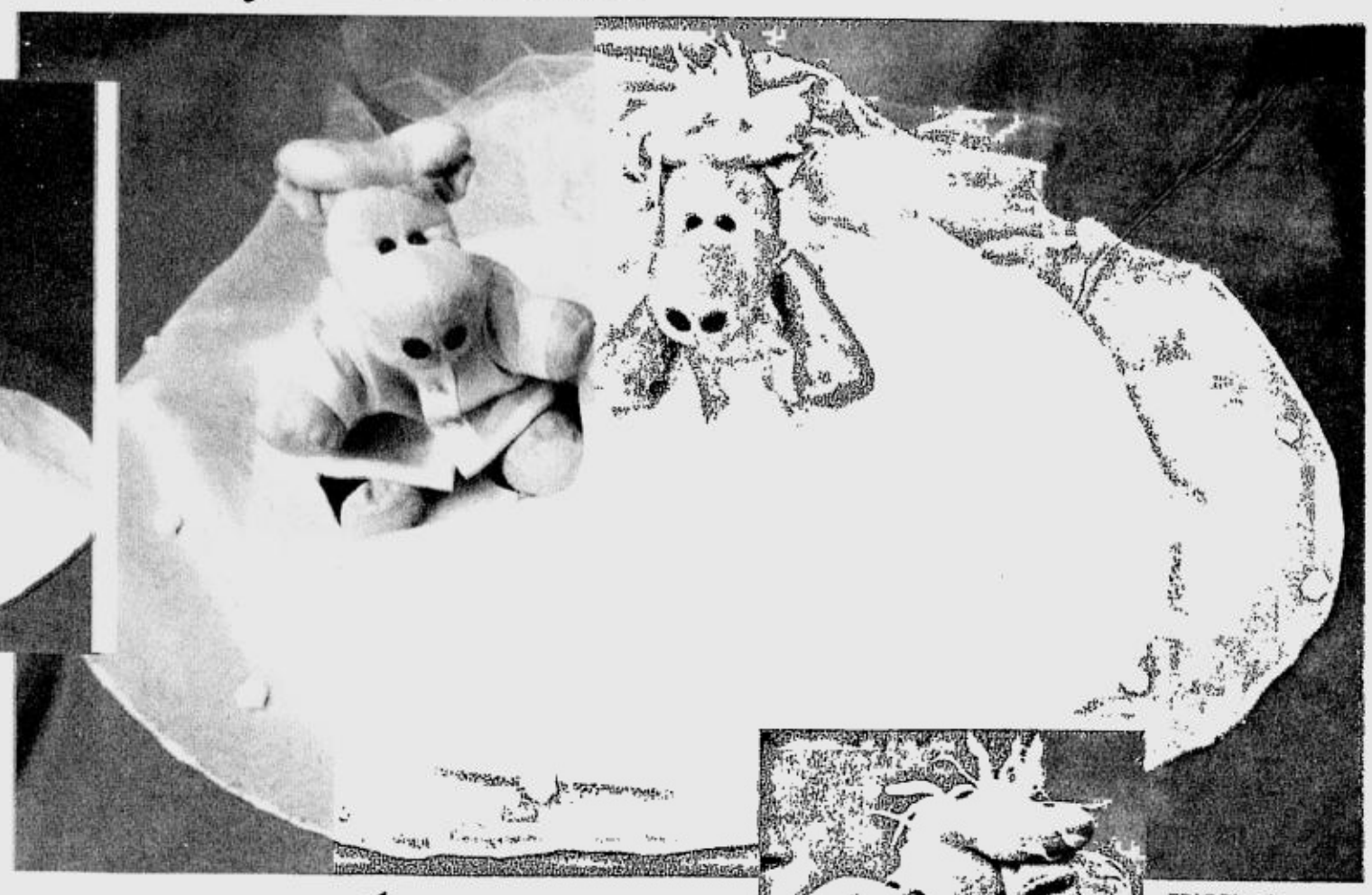
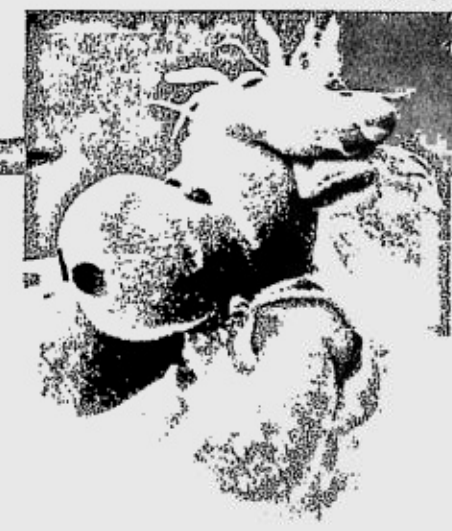




ERIC Pineda

Chic carabao on the catwalk

FREDERICK Peralta

A contest enjoins aspiring designers to dress up INQUIRER's Guyito for the march down the aisle

BEN Farrales

INNO Sotto

From page G1

Airlines, i-Kon Manila and Wave 89.1, will hold next year's first and grandest bridal fair dubbed "Wedding March at Glorietta" on Jan. 10 and 11. The fair's highlight is the "Guyito's Wedding March" competition, which summons all aspiring designers and hobbyists, 18 years old and above, to dress up a pair of the INQUIRER mascot in wedding ensembles of their own design.

Inspired by a similar contest held by Gift Gate for Hello Kitty several years ago, "Guyito's Wedding March" requires participants to buy a pair of Guyito for P350 at the INQUIRER main office. Each pair entitles a participant to one entry form. S/he may submit as many entries as s/he wants. Deadline for submission is on Dec. 29.

Vecina, a respected fashion photographer, appealed to his designer friends to do their own take on Guyito's bridal fineries to drum up interest in the contest. So winners will have their works displayed alongside those of Eddie Baddeo, Rhett Eala, Ben Farrales, Rajo Laurel, Jojie Lloren, Bobby Novenario, Frederick Peralta, Eric Pineda, Inno Sotto and Patis Tesoro. Winners will also take home cash prizes.

No walls

"[Young designers] should never create walls and ceilings that will limit their ideas," Sotto said. He created a simple but decidedly elegant A-line dress with a back panel. "They should be curious about everything, and that means not just about design."

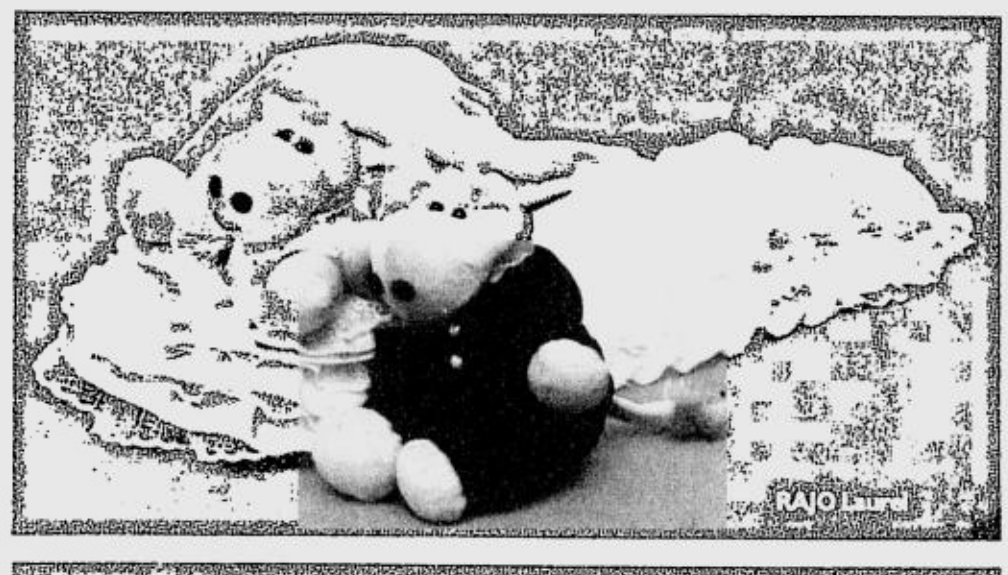
Save for the pearl buttons along the front of the dress, there are no other embellishments in the design of Jojie Lloren.

Lloren said it was hard to create the dress because of the dolls' size. "Everything had to be sewn by hand," he said. He's not shifting to miniature designs anytime soon, but this designer, known for clean, tailored lines, doesn't mind making "dollish" designs. "I enjoyed it, so *kebs nila*!" he said.

Ready-to-wear designer Novenario expressed the same challenge. "I'm used to the proportions of a human being, so [dolls are] not my expertise. But I have a niece and a granddaughter so doing it was fun."

The irreverent Peralta churned out layers upon layers of tulle accented with cascading flowerets and beadwork. To top the theatrical excess, he trimmed the hem with ruffled organza.

The designer is unapologetic. "It's a doll so [I'm allowed to] experiment," Peralta said. Thriving on the lavishness and opulence of his designs, he added: "I don't like [a design to be] too minimalist. There should be a conversational detail."



BOBBY Novenario

Nostalgic

"It was nostalgic for me because I used to be a puppet stylist for 'Batibot,'" said Pineda. "The principles of design don't change, whether it's for a doll or a human being. As an artist, you shouldn't be limited [to only one medium]."

Pineda created a full skirt in jacquard organza with a smattering of rosettes. His signature asymmetric top was embellished with Swarovski crystals. Aspiring designers should "have fun," Pineda said.

Rajo Laurel echoed the view. "Designing should be a fun thing [because] fashion is frivolous. It's about escapism. I have the same attitude toward my work. I don't take it seriously."

Laurel paid extra attention to detail to make sure the Guyito bride looked, well, cute. He used black beads to create eyelashes and red ones to form the lips. For good measure, he made use of rhinestone buttons for earrings. The bridal dress is decidedly romantic, with layers of silk and lace in the skirt that extends into a full train.

For Baddeo, creating a dress for a stuffed animal with fat limbs—and seated, at that!—was "super challenge." But the designer was undeterred, creating matching ensembles using Italian brocade. He made sure the design included his signature bustle and train.

Never one to jump on the bandwagon, Tesoro eschewed the white dress and barong/tuxedo, creating costumes for a peasant wedding instead. "[In rural areas] they get married in whatever they have," she said.

As no design perimeters are set, "Guyito's Wedding March" also encourages contestants to be as orig.nal and unique with their creations.

Criteria for judging are: relevance to the theme (30 percent), originality (30 percent) and creativity (40 percent). *(See ad for contest mechanics on page G6. Call the INQUIRER at 8978808 local 258 and 259, or cbv7 Media Master at 809-6190.)*

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

Our Lady of Caysasay shrine marks 400 years

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

AS THE OUR Lady of Caysasay Shrine in Barrio Labac, Taal, Batangas, celebrates the 400th year of the finding of the image of the Virgin in Pansipit River in 1603 by Juan Maningcad, stories of miracles spawned by her intercession continue to be heard.

And for the first time in the 23 years that the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion has been holding processions, the image of Our Lady of Caysasay will be joining the event for the first time on Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. after the Hermanas Mayores Mass at 2 p.m. at the Manila Cathedral.

New Archbishop of Manila Gaudencio Rosales will lead the Concelebrated Mass. In cooperation with the Intramuros Administration, the procession will be joined by publicly venerated Marian images that include Our Lady of Piat, which has already arrived from Cagayan Valley.

The nine-day novena Masses in the shrine began yesterday at 6:30 p.m. and will end on Dec. 7. Fiesta day is Dec. 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception, with a High Mass at 9:30 a.m.

This year's *hermanos mayores* are Ambassador Raul Goco and his wife Marietta Primicias Goco. Fr. Carlo Ilagan, rector of the shrine, will lead in celebrations.

A special Mass will also be celebrated at the Basilica de Martin de Tours in Taal on Dec. 9 at 9:30 a.m. by Archbishop Rosales. The image of the Virgin will be brought to the Basilica in a fluvial procession beforehand, with the "*luwa*" (sung praises to the Virgin Mary) also taking place.

Our Lady's miracles

Sally Gonzalez, executive director of the Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation, told me her husband Antonio Gonzalez can now walk after being bedridden for so long due to prostate cancer and complications in the kidneys and liver.

In thanksgiving, Gonzalez has translated the history of Our Lady of Caysasay from Spanish to English.

My brother Pompeyo Darang Jr. was led to Dr. Virginia Biteng of the Lorma General Hospital in San Fernando, La Union, who was to take charge in inserting the "pistula" on his arm as the outlet for his dialysis.

Previously, my brother saw the Virgin in a dream, who asked him, "*Nasaan si* Virginia?" He did not know he would meet eventually this doctor named Virginia.

Due to twice-a-week dialysis at the Mariano Marcos Hospital in Batac and a diet suggested by Dr. Biteng, my brother can now travel by himself, when, only last July, he had collapsed and was given the Extreme Unction.

Pompeyo came to Manila afterwards and prayed in thanksgiving to the Virgin of Caysasay in Malate Church, which the image was visiting at the time.

Those who wish to have *estampitas* of Our Lady of Caysasay can write to me. Copies of the nine-day novena prayers can be bought at the Malate Church religious store. To order, please text 0927-4701575.

OUR Lady of Caysasay, patroness of Taal, Batangas

Our Lady of Piat visit

The pilgrim image of Our Lady of Piat was recently brought to the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Cubao from the Filipinas Retirement Homes in Naic, Cavite.

She will be there until Dec. 3. At 1 p.m, she will be brought to the BIR offices in Quezon City where she will stay overnight.

Other scheduled visits: Dec. 5, 3 p.m., at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, where she will stay until Dec. 7 when she joins the Cofradia procession; Dec. 8, 9 a.m., at the Customs offices in Port area, Manila; Dec. 9, domestic airport; and Dec. 10, 11 a.m., flight to Tuguegarao via Air Philippines.

Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace

The San Mateo community in Monterey, Rizal, will mark the first anniversary of the enthronement and blessing of Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace on Dec. 8 with a Holy Mass.

There will be a free dental and medical clinic for the poor on Dec. 7 at 9 a.m. inside the chapel.

The Our Lady Mediatrix of All Grace Chapel is under the auspices of the Order of Melchizedek Foundation, which has been involved in supporting spiritual, charitable and humanitarian projects and activities since 1990.

The foundation invites all devotees of our Blessed Mother to celebrate with the Monterey community, and is appealing to the generosity of individuals and organizations to support the project.

They may get in touch with Sally Lamson or Sr. Nieves Lauraya at 8999219 and 8993907, or the chapel office at 9981426.

Sisters of Mary bazaar

The Sisters of Mary will hold a two-day bazaar on Dec. 6 and 7 in their Girlstown place at 1000 Cordillera St., Quezon City.

Dedicated to the Virgin of the Poor, this order of nuns founded by Fr. Aloysius Scwartz takes care of abandoned and orphaned children. The Virgin of the Poor will also join the Cofradia procession through the help of Mila Dolores.

Well-planned pilgrimages

Prudentialife, a leading pre-need company in the service of the Filipino family for the past 25 years, has been a fervent admirer of Mother Teresa even before the venerable servant of Calcutta was declared Blessed.

Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity in Manila is one of the beneficiaries of the Prudentialife Foundation Inc. It is no wonder that Prudentialife Travel Services Inc. organized a pilgrimage led by its president, Homer P. Blanco, to witness the beatification of Mother Teresa at St. Peter's Square last Oct. 19.

The Prudentialife pilgrims were warmly received by the Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See, Francisco A. Alba, before proceeding to Lourdes and other places associated with St. Bernadette.

For well-planned pilgrimages, call Prudentialife Travel Service Inc. at 8980434 or e-mail mpy@prudentialife.com

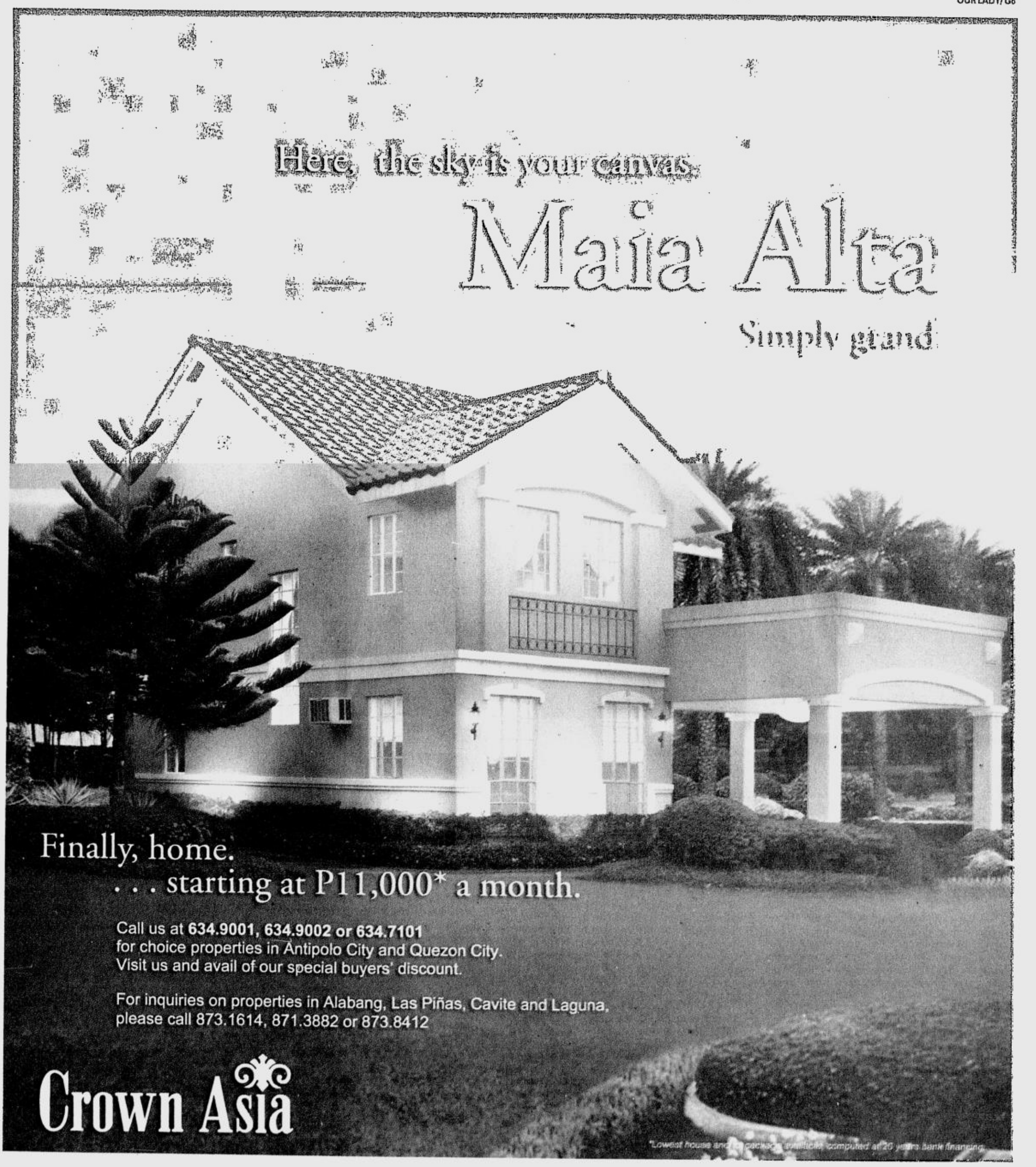
Fund-raising for a new convent

About 55 kilometers southwest of Iloilo City, in the island of Panay, is the quaint town of Calinog, which according to tradition, got its name from the Hiligaynon word "*kalinog*," meaning calm and pacific.

As a third-class municipality that has a population of almost 50,000 inhabitants, the Calinognons, as they are known, derive their income largely from agriculture.

The Calinognons are simple and deeply religious folks. The Immaculate Conception Parish Church fronting the town plaza is an important edifice to the parishioners and worshippers. The church has been renovated and improved along the way by its past parish priest.

OUR LADY/ G6



Colgate and PDA Saves Barangays from Cavities

A MISSION TO MAKE THE WORLD SMILE

Colgate, the leading brand in oral care, has always played an active part in ensuring that everyone – young or old – has strong, healthy teeth and a bigger, brighter smile. Now, it takes the mission a step further by launching a new global mission. They've recently launched the company's global directive, which is to "Save the World from Cavities" and create a "World of Smiles." And what better way to do this than to make proper oral care accessible to anyone at any place.

In the Philippines, the fight against cavities has begun as Colgate and the Philippine Dental Association teamed up for one of the most worthwhile projects to date, the "Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program."

From July to November 2003, Colgate and the PDA visited 100 barangays from 50 different areas nationwide. Once there, they conducted free dental check-ups, basic dental services, such as tooth extractions, and lectures on the proper way of taking care of one's teeth. The program aimed to target Filipino children. This is because the company believes that it's never too early to take care of one's teeth. "If all children develop the proper oral care consciousness and habits at an early stage, and with Colgate on their side, we will be able to save the world from cavities," says Ricky Espinosa, Senior Product Manager of Colgate.

To get everyone involved in the Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program, Colgate has developed a system where Filipino consumers can help make the program a success. As Ricky adds: "Consumers can help support the "World of Smiles" program by buying Colgate. With every pack you buy, a part of the proceeds will go to the KDH program to fund the project."

So while you and your family can get strong, healthy teeth everytime you buy Colgate, you're also giving someone the means to have excellent oral care through the KDH program. And that's something you will definitely smile about.

A MEGA ENDORSER FOR A MEGA MISSION

It is every mother's wish to keep her family's teeth strong, healthy and free of cavities. That is why she makes it a point to give her children the best toothpaste to give them the best oral care possible. And this is true for all Moms, even Mega-Mom, Ms. Sharon Cuneta.

The Megastar recently signed up with Colgate-Palmolive Philippines to be the endorser for the "Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program." This program is a joint project of Colgate and the Philippine Dental Association.

The contract signing was held last July 22, 2003 at Fernando's in Rockwell, Makati. Her participation in the program reinforced her belief that a healthy smile is important in every family. As she said in her recent TVC for the project: "When a kid's smile is healthy, the family is happy."

Ms. Sharon Cuneta appeared in all advertising materials for the program, including television, radio, print and outdoor materials.

SPREADING SMILES ACROSS THE PHILIPPINES - KICKING OFF IN LIPA

In any mission, the keys to success are gaining momentum and having the drive to accomplish as much in as little time as possible. The Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program was no exception. It's mission was ambitious, to visit 100 barangays from 50 areas nationwide and provide them with basic, quality dental health services. And they only had 3 months to accomplish everything.

Not one to lose time, the team from Colgate and the Philippine Dental Association worked double time in getting the program off the ground. From the time the program was announced by the management and officers of both groups, they started working tirelessly to visit as many barangays as possible. And in a short time, they succeeded in making this mission a reality.

Come and join us as we take you to the different places where Colgate has spread healthy smiles and proper oral health care.

VALENZUELA CITY SMILES SOME MORE

What happens when Colgate and the Philippine Dental Association team up with the local government of Valenzuela? A day of big smiles for the residents. This is what happened last August 10, 2003 as the Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program continued its tour at the Barangay Palasan Health Center.

For an entire day, Colgate and the PDA held free dental check-ups and lectures on proper oral health care. Colgate products were also distributed to those who participated, to help keep them free from cavities. According to Ricky Espinosa, this was part of the company's bigger mission: "At Colgate, we want to see a world of healthy smiles and save the world from cavities. Our visit to this barangay is one step in achieving that." PDA Valenzuela Chapter President Dr. Rhinna Carreon thanked Colgate for helping the residents of Barangay Palasan. Dr. Carreon and her team spent the entire day working hard to ensure the success of the program.

Aside from the free dental check-ups, another highlight of the event was the awarding of the Valenzuela PDA Chapter's "Biggest Smile Contest." The grand prize was awarded to the entry entitled: "Colgate's Smile Makes Our World Brighter Everyday." Present during the awarding was Dr. Carreon and Michelle Martirez of Colgate.

PLEASING RESULTS IN PASAY

The Kabarangay sa Dental Health program then found its way to Pasay City last August 16, 2003. Two barangays, Brgy. 145 and 146 in Sto. Nino, Pasay were the latest beneficiaries of this worthwhile project.

Representatives for Colgate, headed by Ricky Espinosa and the group from the Philippine Dental Association, headed by Pasay Chapter President Dr. Vinnie Sison, teamed up for the whole-day event. Free dental check-ups and lectures were given to the residents at Barangay Hall 145. To ensure their teeth are kept healthy and free of cavities, free Colgate products were also given away to those who participated. Another highlight of the event in Pasay City was the awarding of the winners of the "Biggest Smile Contest." The grand prize was awarded to Don Carlos Elementary School for their entry entitled: "Tepok Bad Breath At Cavities." During the awarding ceremonies, Espinosa highlighted the importance of making children aware of proper oral care. "It's never too early to make oral care a part of our youth's daily habits. If we teach them how to have healthy teeth now, we're securing the smile of tomorrow's generation," he added.

CAVITY FREE IN CAVITE CITY

If you see the residents of Barangay Molino III in Cavite with big smiles on their faces, there's only one reason why. It's simply because the Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program visited their area last August 30, 2003.

The event brought together top officials from the local government of Cavite, Colgate and the PDA at the Molino III Elementary School in Bacoor, Cavite. Governor Ayong Maliksi was on-hand to witness this worthwhile endeavor conducted by PDA volunteers. PDA Cavite Chapter President Dr. Cheryl del Rosario, EVP Dr. Mimi Cabal, Kabarangay Sa Dental Health Chairman Dr. Ellen Villanueva, and South Luzon Regional Coordinator Dr. Tagumpay Poblete-Tapawan led the team. Ricky Espinosa explained the program's objectives. The day's program included free dental check ups and lectures on proper oral health care. Colgate products were also given to those who attendend to ensure that their teeth are strong and healthy even after the day's event. "Colgate has always played an active role in making sure that Filipinos have access to the best care for their teeth. This program is one way of making sure that Cavite is cavity-free," Espinosa said during the event.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE TEAM TO BEAT IN BEATING CAVITIES

One is the most trusted name in keeping teeth strong and healthy. The other is the most trusted organization in caring for the teeth of the Filipinos. And now, they've come together to save the Philippines from cavities.

The Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program wouldn't have been a success without the combined efforts of two important names in oral care, Colgate, and the Philippine Dental Association. And it's about time you meet your protectors against cavities.

COLGATE MAXIMUM CAVITY PROTECTION

Colgate Maximum Cavity Protection is the country's leading cavity-fighting toothpaste from Colgate-Palmolive Philippines. It contains micro-particles of calcium and active fluoride for stronger teeth. Cavities begin when calcium is lost below the tooth's surface. While only dentists can repair cavities, Colgate developed this advanced formula toothpaste to help prevent cavities.

Its micro-particles of calcium restores lost calcium while its active fluoride penetrate teeth to lock in calcium. The result is healthier, stronger teeth for you and your family.

PHILIPPINE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

The Philippine Dental Association was formed in 1946 as a result of the merger of two national dental organizations that existed then. These were the National Dental Association of the Philippines and the Sociedad Dental de Filipinas.

The PDA joins hands with the Filipino community with a common goal of equality, justice, peace and economic progress. Through its Chapters and Affiliates, it augments and complements the government's program of addressing the oral health problems and the dental needs of the communities.

Today, various programs on oral health promotion and dental education have been implemented by the PDA, through its 98 chapters and 20 affiliate societies. These include the project, Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program, in cooperation with Colgate.

MANY FIRSTS IN CEBU

Residents of Barangay Alang-Alang, Mandaue City, Cebu had a lot to smile about as Colgate's Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program visited their area on September 20, 2003. This was the first out- of-town mini kick-off of the mission, and was a day of many firsts for the program.

Leading the project were Dr. Marilyn Campano, PDA Mandaue Chapter President and her team, as well as volunteers from the Barangay Health & Nutrition Center. Throughout the day, free dental check ups and services were dispensed to the large number of residents and Colgate products were distributed to help keep their smiles free from cavities.

The worthwhile project was well appreciated by the residents. "I'm thankful for the help of Colgate and the PDA for providing us with free dental check ups. Most of the residents here cannot afford to see a dentist, so we're grateful for this project and I'm proud to be a volunteer," said Concisa Nieves, a health and nutrition worker from the barangay. Dr. Campano, remarked how the project was a milestone: "It's a very good project since this is the first time that Brgy. Alang-Alang residents are given free dental check-ups, tooth extractions and lectures. It is a privilege and a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them. Hopefully, we have the support of Colgate next year to cover more areas in Cebu."

On Colgate's behalf, Espinosa said that they would continue to extend the project to other areas in Cebu: "It is our mission to create a world of smiles and keep people's teeth strong and healthy. And we'll try to do that in more parts of the country through this program."

COLGATE BRINGS BIG SMILES TO DAVAO

Colgate and PDA volunteers visited the Buhangin Multi-purpose Building to give free oral check-ups and basic dental services to the residents of Barangay San Vicente and Mahayag, Davao City. The Kabarangay sa Dental Health Program is a joint project of the Philippine Dental Association and Colgate that aims to create a "world of smiles" as part of Colgate's global mission to "save the world from cavities".

Heading the project was Dr. Lolita Austria, PDA Chapter President from the Davao Dental Society. Dr. Austria's team came in full force, giving free dental check ups and tooth extractions to the residents, plus dental health lectures and toothbrushing drills for the children. Dr. John Pereyras, Chairman of Outreach Programs from the Davao Dental Society gave lectures on oral health care to educate the children of San Vicente and Mahayag on how to brush their teeth properly and keep cavities away. Colgate samples were distributed to help keep their smiles free from cavities. Each child was called on the stage to receive Colgate toothbrushes and toothpaste.

"The residents are happy and excited that Colgate is giving them all these free services. Normally, one toothbrush is shared per family so you can imagine their delight when they were given Colgate products!" expressed Dr. Lolita Austria. She hopes the program continues next year so that more smiles will be given to the people of Davao.

On Colgate's behalf, Ricky Espinosa reiterated that they would continue to extend the project to other areas in Mindanao: "It is our mission to create a world of smiles and keep people's teeth strong and healthy. And we'll try to do that in more parts of the country through this program."

The Kabarangay sa Dental Health program covers over 100 barangays nationwide with the help of 53 PDA Chapters. The program is spearheaded by Colgate Maximum Cavity Protection toothpaste. It's the only toothpaste that contains micro-particles of calcium and active fluoride for strong and cavity-free teeth.

For more information about Colgate's global business, visit their website at www.colgate.com.

COLGATE & MAYOR VI CELEBRATE HER BIRTHDAY IN A UNIQUE WAY

The Star for All Seasons, Mayor Vilma Santos, celebrated her birthday last November 3, 2003 by organizing a free dental clinic for her Lipa constituents.

Mayor Vi's free dental health clinic was supported by Colgate, who donated Colgate products. The event would not have been possible without the help of the Philippine Dental Association - NCR Chapter, the Lipa Dental Society, the Lipa City Community Affairs Office, the Lipa Health Office and the Department of Education.

The PDA volunteer dentists came in full force with chapters from Lipa, Muntinlupa, Kalookan, Quezon City, Las Pinas, Novaliches and Mandaluyong who treated approximately 300 students from 15 different barangay national highschools. Some adults from nearby barangays also availed of the free dental services.

Since both dental programs were a resounding success, the people of Lipa hope that there will be many more dental health clinics to follow.

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Our Lady of Caysasay shrine . . .

From page G3

However, on the side of the church stands their parish convent, a wooden structure which is now in a dilapidated state.

As assistant parish priest Fr. Melben J. Benal wrote in an appeal letter: "We've lost count of the years that have already gone by since the present convent was built. Its present state already shows alarming 'wear and tear,' and we believe it's high time to put up a new convent. Thus, we are launching this project, the estimated cost of which is P4 million. Construction will kick off in January 2004."

You can send your donations c/o the Calinog parish through RCBC Jaro Branch, Jaro, Iloilo City (account number 1-405-33349-6) or Bank of Commerce Calinog Branch (account number 068-122985-1). You may also call Father Melben at 0920-9008024.

Image of Mother Teresa in Marilao

A life-size image of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta will be enthroned today at 6:30 a.m. at the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Marilao, Bulacan, by Bishop Oliveros.

Fr. Vic Robles, rector, will also celebrate his 16th sacerdotal anniversary with a Mass at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Nov. 30 is also the date when Pope John Paul II wrote the encyclical on the Divine Mercy.

Missionaries of the Sacred Heart marks jubilee

The Philippine province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) will mark its 150th year of apostolate worldwide with the launching of the International MASC Jubilee Year on Dec. 8 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Cubao Quezon City.

Founded in 1854 by Fr. Jules Chevalier in Issoudum, France, the MSC has close to 3,000 priests and brothers in 53 countries. It works together with the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart and the Lay Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

The first MSC priests arrived in the Philippines in 1908. Initially, MSC began its work in Surigao, later reaching Metro Manila (1918), Cebu (1929), Agusan (1935), Nueva Ecija (1937) and Pampanga (1959).

In 1985, MSC's Philippine Province opened a mission in Korea, which has grown into a community of 16 fully professed Korean priests and brothers.

Today, the province is composed of 81 Filipino, five Dutch and 11 Korean priests, and is present in various parishes, schools, media and social communication, chaplaincies, justice and peace movements, and environment advocacy and spiritual missions for tribal Filipinos, farmers, workers and fisher folk.

Pink Sisters' congress today

The Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters of Quezon City (Pink Sisters) holds its annual Eucharistic Congress 7 a.m.-4 p.m. today at St. Joseph's Convent, Hemady Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

PRUDENTIALIFE pilgrims with Ambassador Frank Alba (center) at the Philippine Embassy in the Vatican during the beatification of Mother Teresa

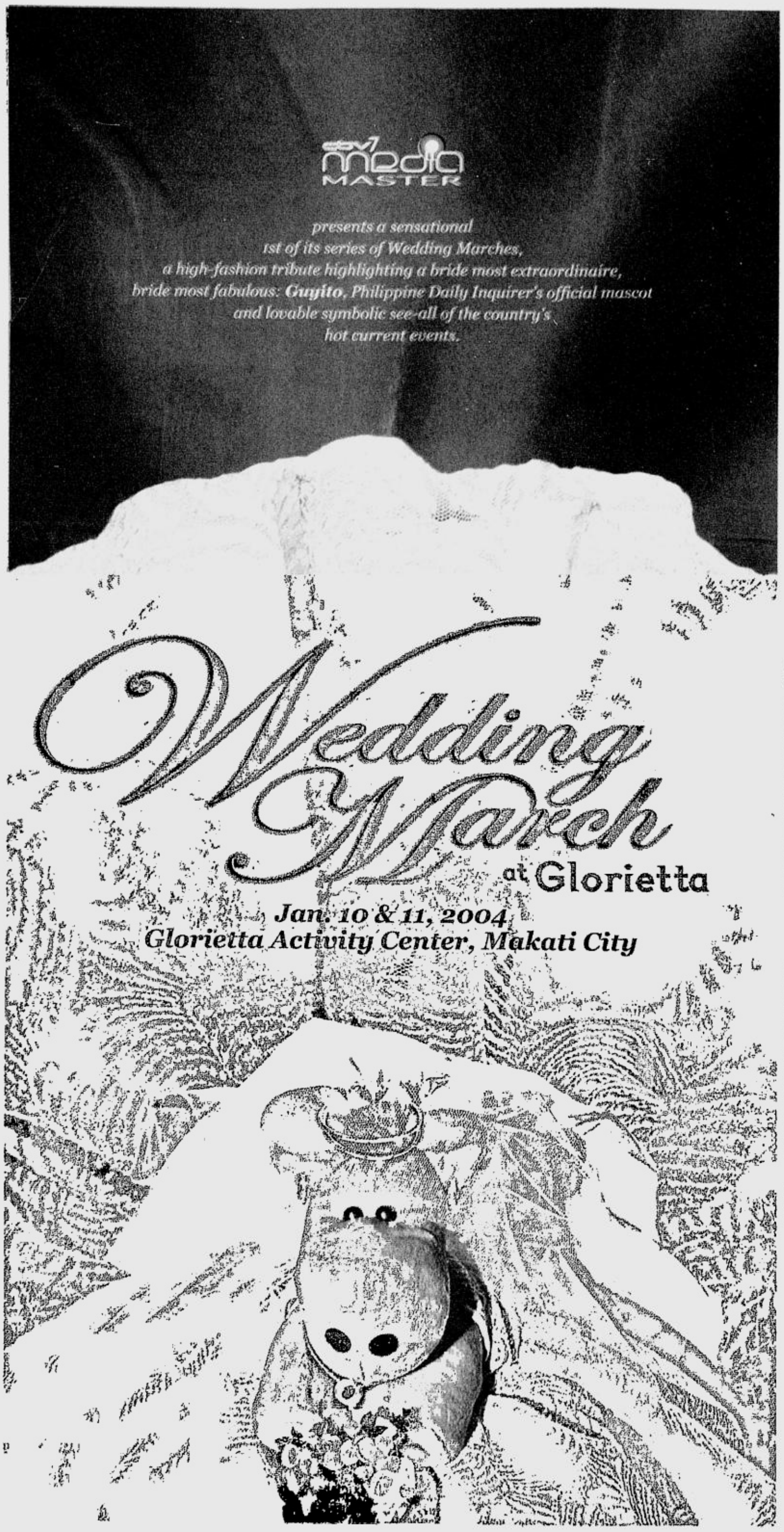
Congress theme is "The Eucharist: The Life of the Church."

Former ambassador to the Vatican Tita de Villa, president of The Mother Butler's Guild, will talk on "Community of Disciples around The Eucharist–Role of the Laity."

Sr. Mary Niere, OCD, extern sister of the Carmelite Monastery of Zamboanga who gives seminars on the teachings of St. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, will discuss "The Healing Power of the Eucharist on the Family."

Msgr. Sabino A. Vengco Jr., founding president of Kadiwa sa Pagkapari Foundation Inc. and host of the Catholic Sunday telecast "Ecclesia In Asia" on GMA 7, will talk about "Mary, Woman of the Eucharist."

Sponsored by the Eucharistic League of Adorers, Quezon City Chapter, the event starts with registration at 7 a.m. and closes with a 4 p.m. Holy Mass. Meals and snacks are free.



FEATURING

- **On Exhibit**
  Guyito in Haute Couture bridal gowns by 10 of the Philippines' top fashion designers: ***Ben Farrales, Inno Sotto, Patis Tesoro, Eddie Baddeo, Rhett Eala, Rajo Laurel, Frederick Peralta, Jojie Lloren, Bobby Novenario and Eric Pineda***
- **"Guyito's Wedding March " Contest**
  In cooperation with Philippine Daily Inquirer, one of the major activities of this event is this competition to dress up Guyito, PDI's official mascot. Please see contest mechanics below.
- **Acoustic Night**
  A free concert featuring: Jimmy Bondoc, Paolo Santos, Nyoy Volante and Nina
- **Raffle Draws**
  Open to suppliers/exhibitors and couples/guests
- **Wedding & Trade Fair Exhibit**
  Showcasing the country's most prominent establishments

"Guyito's Wedding March" Contest Mechanics:

1. *The contest is open to all aspiring amateur designers 18 years old and above.*
2. *One pair of Guyito doll entitles a contestant to one entry form. The dolls must be purchased by the contestant starting* ***Dec. 1 to Dec. 26, 2003*** *from the Philippine Daily Inquirer main office at:*
   Philippine Daily Inquirer Building
   Don Chino Roces Avenue
   cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
   Each pair costs ***P350.00****. A contestant may submit as many entries as he/she wants.*
3. *The contest theme is "Guyito's Wedding March". A contestant is tasked to dress up the doll pair in wedding ensembles (as bride and groom) of his/her own design. No perimeters shall be set with the design.*
4. *Criteria for judging will be based on the following: Relevance to Theme (30%), Originality (30%) and Creativity (40%). Officers of Philippine Daily Inquirer and cbv7 Media Master will be present during the judging of the contest.*
5. *Deadline for submission of entries is at* ***6pm*** *on* ***Dec. 29, 2003*** *at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Head Office Marketing Department. Look for Hazel Soriaga and Masoy Cabuhat.*
6. *Judging will be on January 5, 2004 at Philippine Daily Inquirer main office in Don Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo), corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City at 2pm. A DTI representative shall be invited to witness the selection of the winners.*
7. *Winners will be notified by phone and registered mail, and will also be published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.*
8. *All winning entries shall automatically become the exclusive property of PDI and may be used, copied, reproduced into any size or medium for exhibition, advertising, promotion, or similar purposes. All non-winning entries will be returned to the contestants after the awarding ceremonies.*
9. *PDI reserves and maintains all intellectual property rights.*
10. ***Prizes as follows:***
    1st prize : P15,000 cash
    2nd prize : P10,000 cash
    3rd prize : P5,000 cash
    All cash prizes are tax free.
11. *All winning entries will be displayed during the Wedding March at Glorietta in Makati City on Jan. 10, 2004. Awarding will be on Jan. 10, 2004 at 7pm. Officers of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and cbv7 Media Master will be present during the awarding.*
12. *Winners must present any valid I.D. (driver's license, passport, or any I.D. with picture) when claiming the prize.*
13. *The decision of the Board of Judges is final and unappealable with the concurrence of the DTI.*
14. *Employees of PDI, cbv7 Media Master, their advertising agency, dealers, all participating outlets and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion.*
15. *Only entries received until 6pm on Dec. 29, 2003 are qualified for the contest. A participant can send more than one entry but can only win once.*
16. *PDI and cbv7 Media Master reserve the right to publish or display any entry, winning or non-winning, for promotional purposes, without permission or payment of any kind to the owner of the Guyito doll.*

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In-laws make her daughter doubt her mother's love

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Tami, my six-year-old daughter, is sweet and very smart. I have not seen her for two years because I have been working here abroad, but I phone her almost daily. My mom visits her periodically, and sometimes Tami texts me on my mom's phone.

On one of my mother's visits, Tami suddenly cried and called out my name. When my mom convinced her to say why, Tami said that my parents-in-law, with whom she's living, told her that I don't love her and that she won't be seeing me anymore. Tami said, though, that she doesn't believe them.

I don't know if my husband knows what his parents are doing to Tami. And even if he knows, I don't know if he'll do anything about it. He himself told Tami that I don't love him. (I couldn't explain the situation to her, so I just told her that I love her father as a friend.)

The other week, Tami sounded on the phone like she was trying hard not to cry. I told her that no matter what her grandparents say, I love her and I am her mommy forever. When we were ending our call, she could not say "I love you, Mommy" like she always did, and whispered that her Lolo might get angry if he hears her.

I'm going on an early vacation to see her, but I'm still worried that I might lose my daughter's love.

CAMILA

Tami might have said she doesn't believe your in-laws that you don't love her. She cried, though, which to me means that she was hurt by the idea. And the idea could only hurt her if she sees in it a grain of truth.

The fact is, Tami could see many things that could each be that grain of truth. To cite a few examples, you're not the one who attends to her daily needs, goes to meetings and programs in her school, goes shopping for or with her, tucks her in bed or nurses her when she's sick.

You call her on the phone, yes, but only at your convenience, really. And what's a phone call compared to the million backbreaking things that a mother normally does for her daughter?

You cannot sweep away those grains of truth, but you can help Tami view them in a way that hurts her less.

The way to do that, I think, is to make her understand that you have a lot of love to give to her, but the ways to deliver that love are limited.

And because you want Tami to see that the problem is rooted neither in you nor in her but in the situation, then you will have to spell out that situation: that yours is a broken family.

You might have been keeping that a secret from Tami because it might hurt and confuse her. But she's hurting and confused now precisely because that secret has disabled her from naming and understanding her situation.

So call a spade a spade, and help her understand that your family broke up through no fault of hers, and that members of a broken family have to go through difficult times as she and you now do.

If you succeed in explaining those to her, the picture that Tami will get of your family will not be so pretty. But that will also help her understand that, being a piece of that bigger scenario, the situation between you and her cannot be so pretty either.

Tell her, though, that the situation is not all that bad, because what is broken in a broken family is only the bond between the husband and the wife, and not between the parents and the child.

So while her dad can no longer be your husband, she will always be your daughter and you will always be her mom.

You have plenty to explain to Tami now, so visiting her is a very good idea. Before and after that visit though, it might also be good to not just phone her but to write her weekly as well.

When your letters say something sensitive, you can prevent your in-laws from getting hold of them by addressing them to your mom. She can bring them to Tami and then bring them back with her after the visit for safekeeping.

Aside from writing her about your family situation, write her, too, of the ordinary things that happen to you and the people around you. Make her feel as if she's also there with you.

Write her about yourself when you were her age, about your relatives and friends, about how you and her father met and fell in love. Write her about your plans for yourself and for her. Write her about you.

Make her see you as a person, not just a voice on the phone.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 representing "completely energized" and 1 indicating "It's a miracle you can get out of bed," think about what your energy level is right now?

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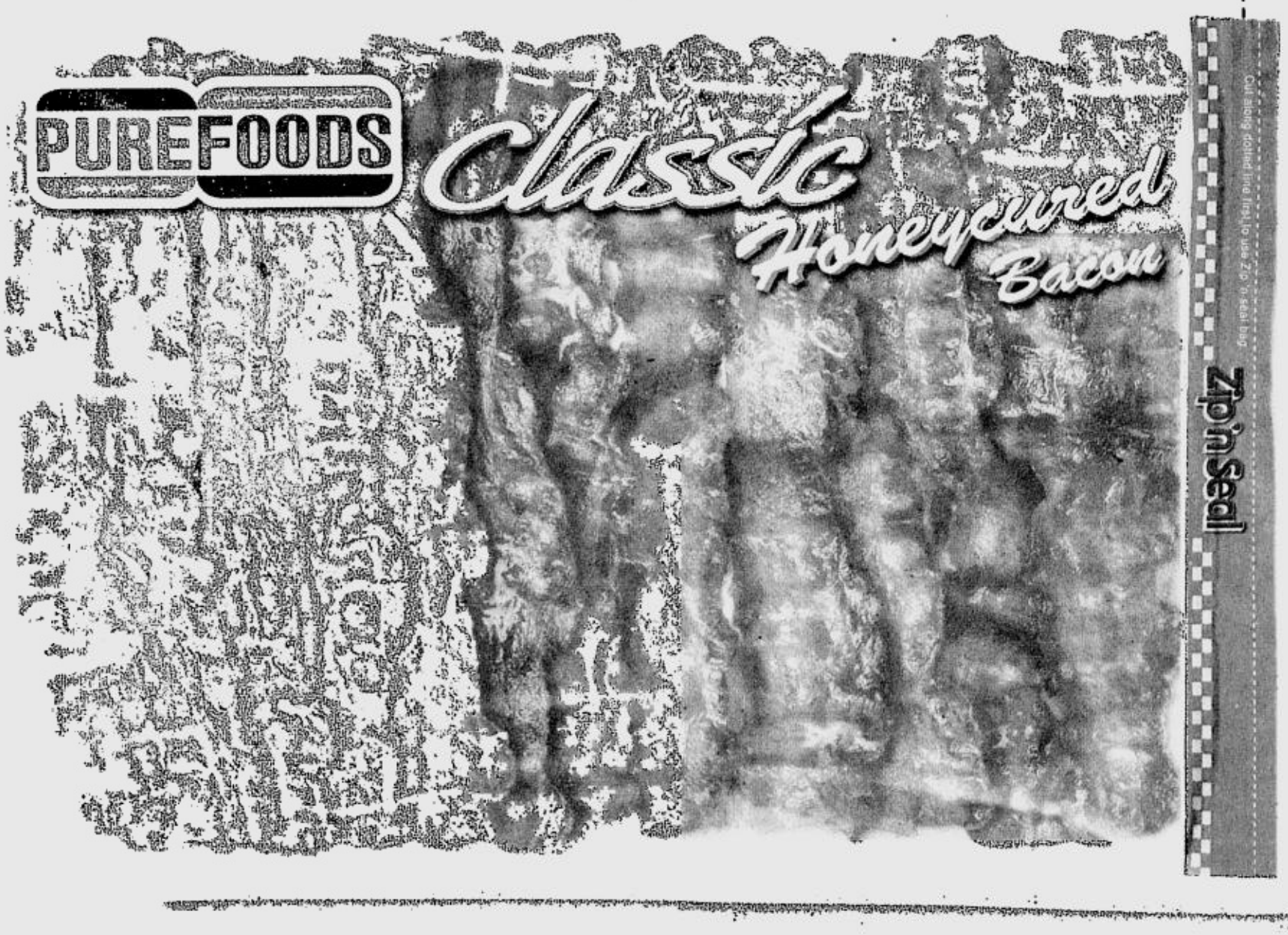

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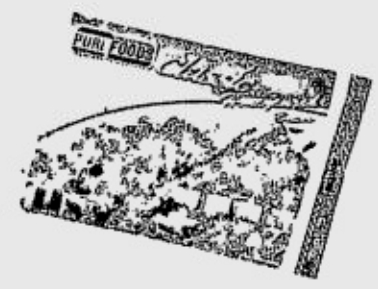


Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

CAÑADILLA-ESTRADA

Louie L. Cañadilla and **Jacqueline S. Estrada** will exchange vows on Dec. 27 at the Parish of Sta. Maria della Strada.

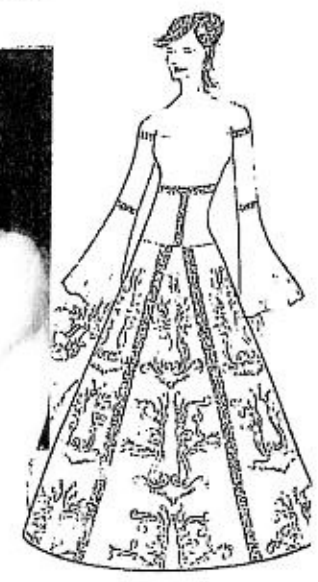
SANCHEZ-DOMINGUEZ

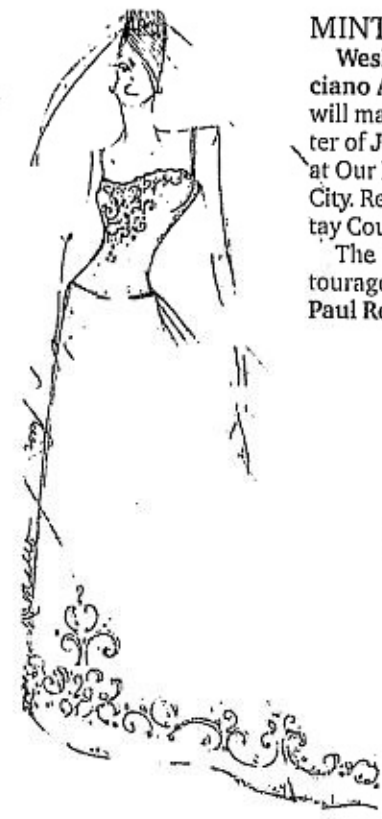
Engineer **Arnold G.D. Sanchez**, son of the late **Angel Sanchez** and **Anastacia Sanchez** (now Mrs. Boehm), exchanged vows with **Lyra B.S. Dominguez**, only child of Lt. Gen. **Romeo** and **Elbe Dominguez**, last May 31 at the Manila Cathedral. The bride designed her modern Maria Clara off-shoulder gown, made of embroidered and beaded *piña*, with an asymmetrical see-through skirt.

VIRAY DEBUT

Josephine Joy Laus Viray, daughter of **Celso** and **Divine Viray**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on Dec. 6 at the Centennial ballroom, Manila Hotel. Her gown is a **Michelle Lim** creation.

Fondly called "J" by her friends, she's an AB Political Science freshman at De La Salle University.

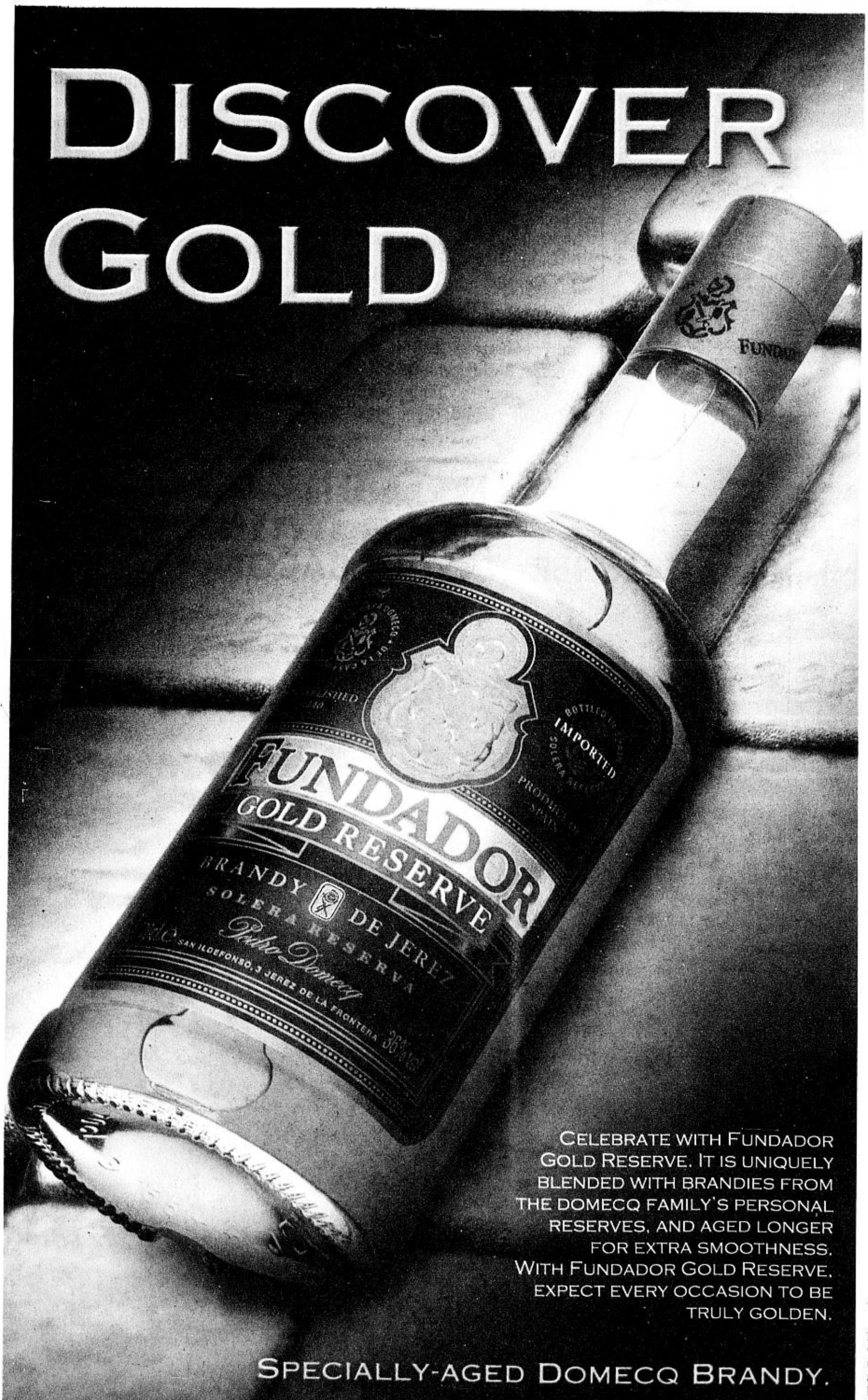




MINTU-MAYORAL

Wesley C. Mintu, son of the late **Luciano A. Mintu** and **Constancia C. Mintu**, will marry **Ma. Cecilia S. Mayoral**, daughter of **Jaime** and **Alma Mayoral**, on Dec. 6 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Tagaytay City. Reception will follow at Royale Tagaytay Country Club.

The bridal gown and those of the entourage were designed and created by **Paul Rex A. Mateo** of The Wedding Day.



MASCAREÑAS-FABROS

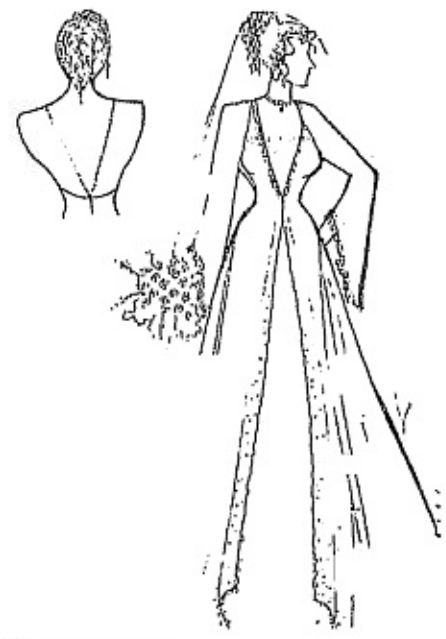
Paul Edward T. Mascareñas, son of **Santiago** and **Teresita Mascareñas**, will marry **Mary Michelle A. Fabros**, daughter of **Romelle** and **Agnes Fabros**, on Dec. 5 at Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, San Juan. Reception will follow at Quezon Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La.

The bride will wear a *piña* princess-cut gown with a detachable cathedral train, embellished with caviar and cut beads and Swarovski crystals made into very fine leaves. The bridal gown and the rest of the bridal ensemble in autumn colors were designed and executed by **Francis Calaquian.**

WATSON-MANANGHAYA

Nicholas Watson, son of **John** and **Joelle Watson**, will exchange vows with **Anna Michelle Mananghaya**, daughter of **Mario** and **Remedios Mananghaya**, on Dec. 6 at San Agustin Church in Intramuros. Reception will follow at the Ilustrado Restaurant.

The bride will wear a **Patis Tesoro** Maria Clara-inspired gown in pale champagne beige shantung silk with an overlay of pineapple silk.



YABOT-VENIDA

Michael Emmanuel R. Yabot, son of **Manuel** and **Cynthia Yabot**, will exchange vows with **Abigail L. Venida**, daughter of Capt. **Danilo** and **Herminia Venida**, on Dec. 8 at Fernwood Gardens. Reception will also be held there.

The bride will wear an off-white Spanish-inspired princess-cut gown in duchess satin and beaded spaghetti straps, embellished with glass beads and Swarovski cyrstals. The gown was designed by **Honey Papa** and executed by **Edd Sy.**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2003 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER H2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160
or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Their first meeting was hardly romantic, and they barely looked at each other

NEWLYWEDS Gary and Joy Valero (nee de Leon)

VALERO-DE LEON NUPTIALS

'Suplado' meets his match in 'suplada'

By Joy de Leon-Valero
Contributor

"MAGIC" is the word that best describes how everything worked for me and Gary. After three years of romance and a year of planning, our moment finally arrived... our wedding.

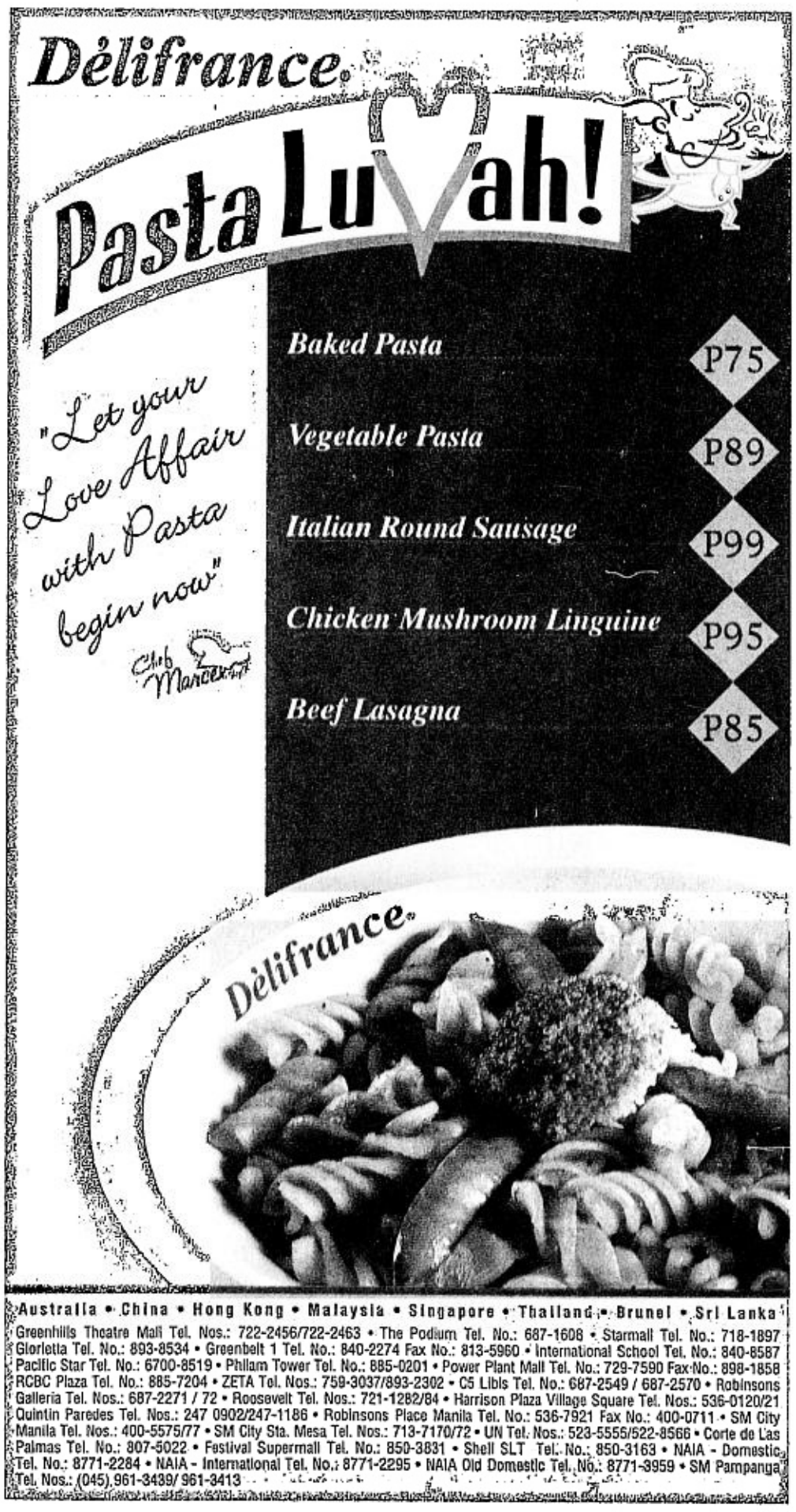
I guess I was your typical nervous bride. Excitement, overwhelming happiness, fear, hope that everything would go smoothly—I experienced all those things at the same time.

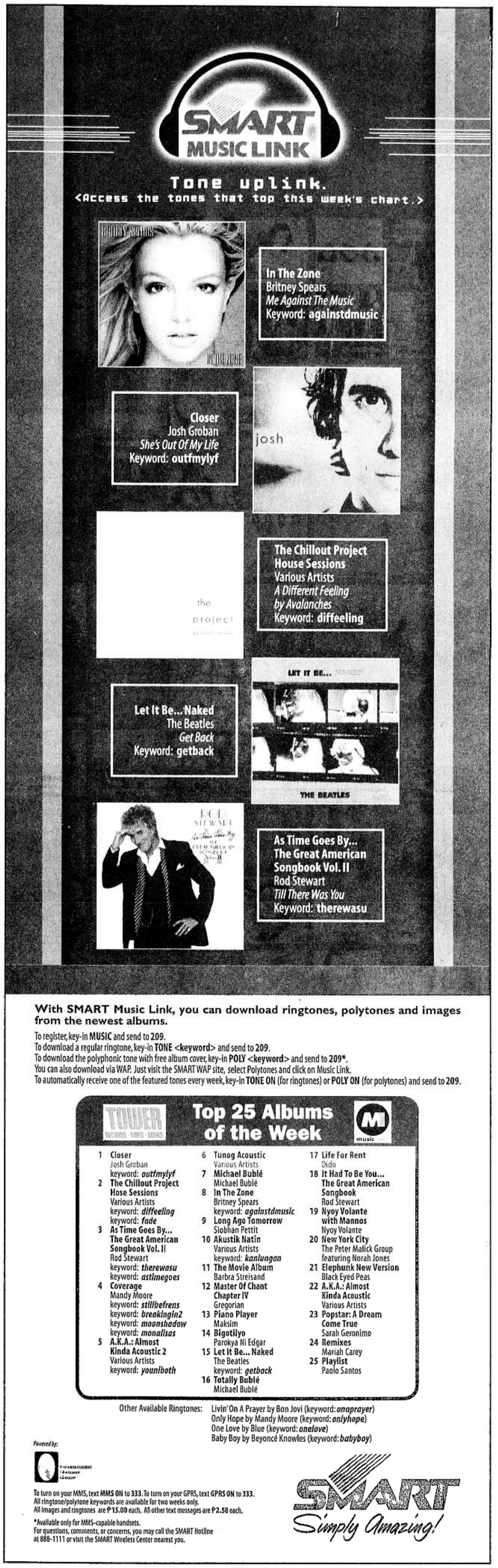
Good thing my aunts, Demetria and Marina de Leon, and my BFF (best friend forever) Julie Samson were with me. They gave me strength and support, for my knees were turning to jelly.

As I walked down the aisle with my aunts, I felt total happiness. It seemed everything had fallen into place and I recalled our first meeting, which seemed like only yesterday.

In July 2000, Tita Libbie Valero, a family friend, introduced me to her nephew Gabriel Valero at a party. He was then a medical intern at the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center. As a gemologist for D'Metyangs, it seemed to me

'SUPLADO'/ H2





WITH their parents and guardians: Ms Cacion, Demetria and Marina de Leon, the newlyweds, and Prosie and Gabby Valero

WITH the principal sponsors: (back row) Luis Valero, Ben Espiritu, Mike Apos
Cramer, Baby Samson, Coney Nubla, Cora Pacheco, the couple, Baby Valenzu

'Suplado' meets his match in 'supla

WITH the female entourage: Janice Coligado, Pamela Gesmundo, Marcia Linao, Vanessa and Sha Sha Ongkiko, the bride, JC Cabungcal, Kristine and Charlene Gesmuno and Aba Abano

From page H1

that we did not have anything in common.

The first time we met, we barely looked at each other, although we stole glances. My first impression of him was *suplado* but cute. It was not love at first sight, though. To my surprise, I found out later that he had almost the same thoughts about me—*suplada* and rather mature for him. The nerve! During the party, I sent a text message to Paul, my other best friend, saying my new acquaintance was kinda cute.

Nothing happened for a month, until we started forwarding messages to each other. The exchange of text messages progressed to minute-long phone calls then to hours of *telebabad*.

I enjoyed his company, his sense of humor. We started going out but in a group, joining my *barkada* on out-of-town trips, until it became just the two of us.

So, as I walked down the aisle toward my husband-to-be standing handsomely at the altar, eagerly waiting for me, I tried not to cry and run to him.

And as we held hands and turned toward the altar, I thought, "This is it, a wish come true... the beginning of our new life together."

The wedding was held 7 p.m., Sept. 27. Reception followed at The Palms Country Club. Motif was lavender and pink.

THE COUP

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

:ol, Bobby Leonor, Dr. Eddie Florendo, Dr. Joey Abano, Apolinario Medina and Jun Linao; (front row) Femy ela, Irene Salud, Tess Sapinoso, Concepcion Brosas

WITH the male entourage: Jerry Villarante, Peter Cabungcal, Paul Aca, the groom, Mark Delarmente, Jason Coligado and Dr. Jerome Tan

da'

LE with Dr. Joi Lim and Chi Chi Villarante

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THE CUFFED ONE

On metrosexuals, bad Michael Jackson and recycled gifts

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE travel guide—Luxe. It's a stylish and brutally frank travel and style guide that covers cities like Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh, Bali, Hong Kong and Hanoi.

What makes it different from other guide books? Well, here is how they describe themselves: "Bored of out-of-date recommendations to second-rate dumps? Tired of trying to select the best option from a slew of mediocrity? Fed up with that this 'sh*#hole, I deserve to be someplace better' feeling? Well clap your hands—who's your daddy!"

The guide book is updated every six months, fits perfectly in the pocket, and contains tips on the best shopping sites, hotels and souvenir shops. Despite the sassy, outrageously opinionated and bitchy remarks, this guide is simply fabulous. One can buy the boxed set which contains all cities. Log on to www.luxecity guides.com.

Must-have book for the metrosexuals out there. A metrosexual is not gay, but appreciates the "finer things in life" such as the arts, culture, fashion, dining out, etc., and who is not afraid to be seen going to the spa, having a manicure and wears moisturizer. He is stylish, confident and sophisticated. He is equally at home in a football match as at the Emphasis Salon in Rockwell. He is the new male image, not to mention the emerging demographic market. Every man therefore should read "The Metrosexual Guide to Style" to catch up on the latest trend.

The book answers such questions as "What is dermabrasion?" and "How do you make a toast at a party?" This would be a great Christmas gift for your macho dad or caveman boyfriend.

"Bad" Michael Jackson. We all knew he's weird, but is he as bad—a child molester—as American prosecutors portray him to be?

Recently, I came across a Christmas décor being sold on the Internet. It had a photo of Jackson and the words, "Do you know where your children are?" What has happened is quite sad for someone who has been gifted with so much.

Better than the Sukhothai? There is a new hip hotel to rival Sukhothai as "the hotel to stay and be seen in" Bangkok. The Metropolitan Bangkok or Met boasts of **Yohji Yamamoto**-outfitted staff, interiors by **Kathryn Kng** and cuisine by award-winning Australian chef **Amanda Gale**, (the Cyan restaurant serves Moorish food while Glow serves organic cooking). In the rooms you will find traveler's comfort plus a yoga mat (how chic!). The hotel is located at 27 South Sathorn Road, Tungmahamek, Sathorn Bangkok 10120. Call 66 (0) 2 625 3333 or e-mail res.bkk@metropolitan.como.bz.

MUST-HAVE travel guide—Luxe

If you think Michael Jackson is bad, this woman is bad-der. Paris Hilton, one of the world's "it" girls and heir to the Hilton empire, has been named "Internet Queen" with the shocking underground release of an X-rated video of her and her ex-boyfriend, **Richard Salomon**. The tape made three years ago shows Paris and her ex in every position imaginable. In a statement last week, Hilton said, "I feel embarrassed and humiliated, especially because my parents and the people who love me have been hurt." She added that she "never, ever thought that these things would become public."

And the gift that goes on and on and on... Are you in the holiday frenzy yet? Are you at a loss on what to give family and friends this Christmas? Here's a word to remember: Re-gifting.

Yes, it's exactly like recycling. The difference is in the spelling, and it sounds better, is more chic plus has less guilt. I came across an article in Town and Country on re-gifting and thought it smart to share it with you.

Here are the reasons why re-gifting is okay: 1. It's free; 2. What we may not find attractive or suitable, may be attractive to or suitable for others. (Just think about it: You received your seventh fruitcake or scented candle, what do you do with it?); 3. And for the second time, it's free. It does not cost you anything.

Here lies the guilt part. What if the person who gave you the gift finds out? Or worse, the gift you sent comes back to you?

Well, for the former, you just have to make sure that they don't. Tip: Make a list of group A, B, C friends who do not know each other. If gift came from Group A give it to group C. If group C lives in the province, better.

As to the other possibility, if the gift that you gave comes back to you, then you will know karma really works! Laugh it off, it's the holidays.

What not to re-gift: the obvious, like used or opened presents. There's nothing worse than receiving used soap or a dozen brownies with one missing.

Never re-gift what people really do not like, e.g. tacky gifts (think: loud ties or nail polish). Also, self-help books that were meant for you, Christmas décor or CDs, ugly handmade ceramic figurines, any Michael Jackson or F4 merchandise, and any gift given after Dec. 25—you know the giver really forgot you and she is re-gifting as well.

Tip: If you are going to re-gift, change the gift wrapper and the card.

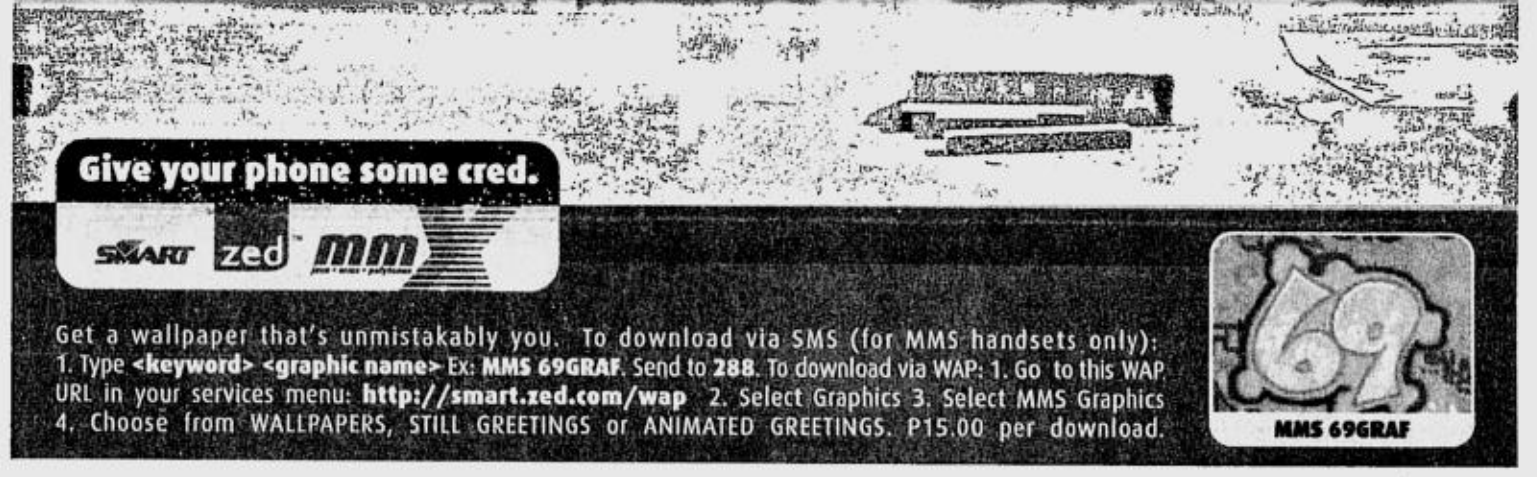
And here's another thing to take your guilt off: The grand dame of manners, **Emily Post** (actually it's her grandson **Peter Post**—it's in the genes), wrote: "It's permissible but only with care. You don't want to hurt the person who gave you the item by letting him find out that you have re-gifted it."

This is probably a hard piece to write because now everyone might think that I recycle my gifts. Don't worry, I follow my own advice and I have allotted a Christmas budget. But here's a hint: If you get a fruitcake from me, know it's a re-gift!

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com

XXX. Society bad girl Paris Hilton

MUST-HAVE book for metrosexuals—"The Metrosexual Guide to Style"



WANG Yutao AFP

China dolls

Just as Western luxury goods manufacturers are gleefully opening stores in China to cater to the booming economy's fresh big spenders, China's fashion houses—NE Tiger, Issen-Zhang Yichao, Mark Cheung and Wang Yutao, among others—showed they were ready and willing to compete on and off the runway when they recently staged China Fashion Week in Beijing.

The annual fashion gala attracted hundreds of local fashion houses and buyers to Beijing to gawk at, perchance to market, the latest line of fashion.

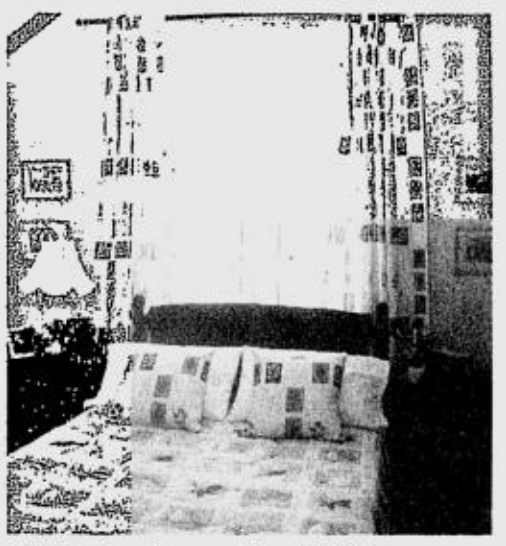
Chinese textile producers are likely to see their earnings hit by US import quotas, leading to increased competition, falling margins and a loss of pricing power, following new signs of emerging US protectionism, which pose a risk to global markets and threaten the outbreak of a trade war between the United States and China.

AFP

MARK Cheung AFP

ISSEN-Zhang Yichao AFP NE Tiger

LIVED-IN community of Maia Alta is ready for families to move in.

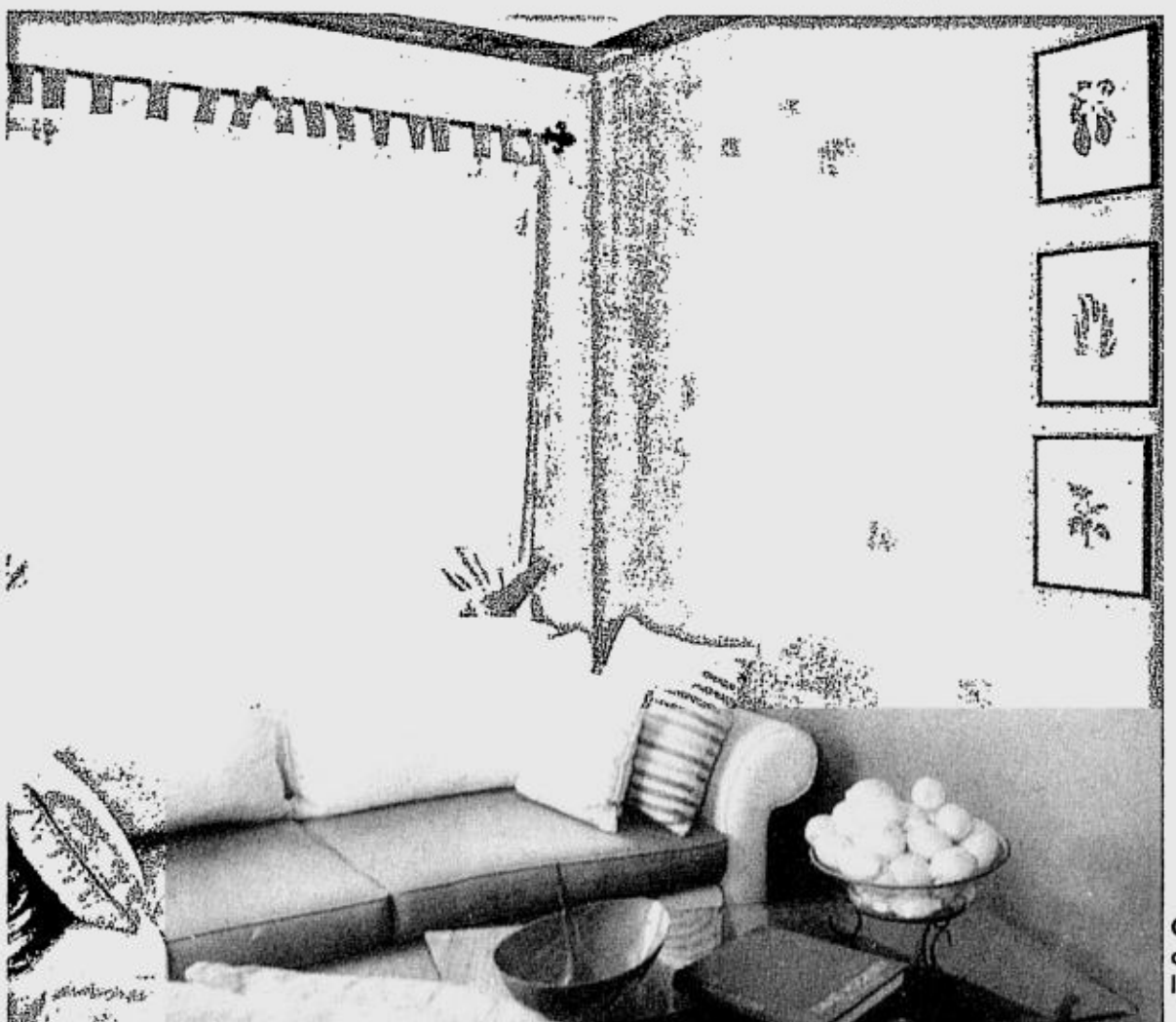


LET the clean breeze blow right into your bedroom.

ANY boy would love to stay in this Spiderman-themed bedroom.

BRIGHT colors and thoughtful touches create an interesting living space.

Showcase of Antipolo's pride



GREENS and yellows create an energizing living room.

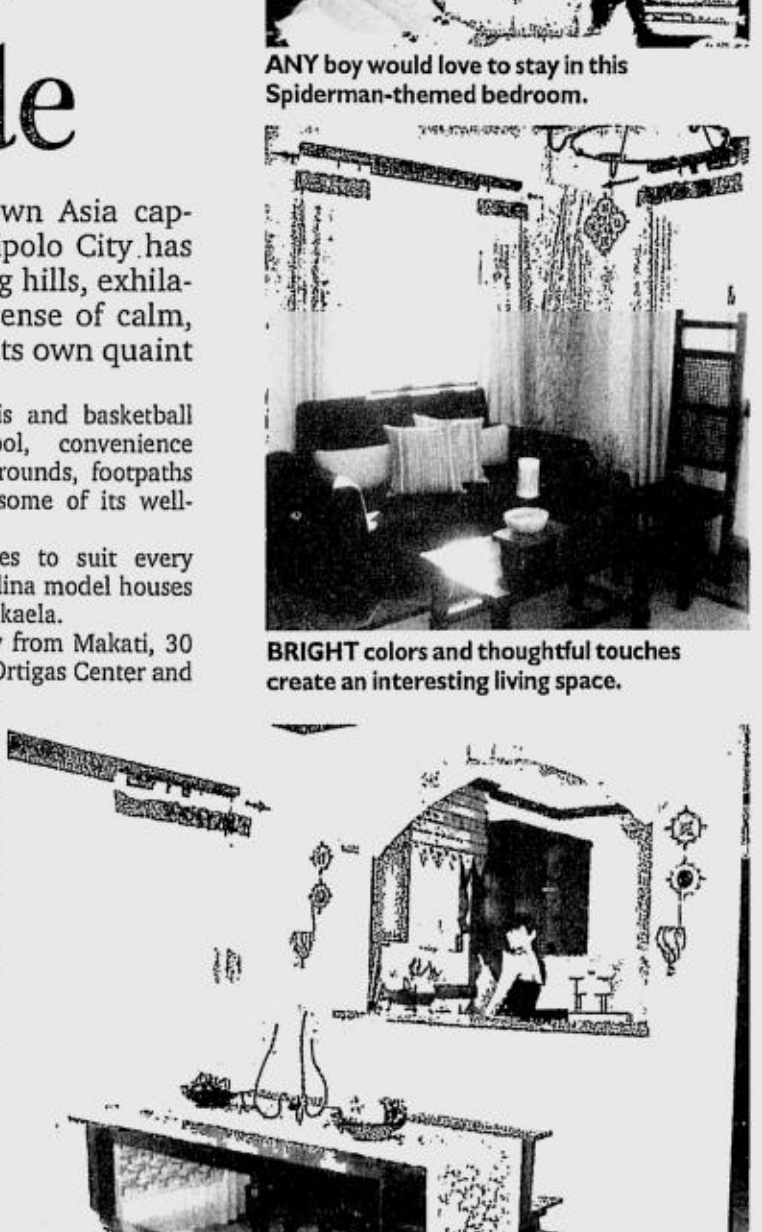
MAIA Alta by Crown Asia captures the best Antipolo City has to offer—the rolling hills, exhilarating views and sense of calm, mixing them with its own quaint charm.

The clubhouse, tennis and basketball courts, swimming pool, convenience stores, parks and playgrounds, footpaths and jogging lanes are some of its well-planned amenities.

Maia Alta has houses to suit every need—from the cozy Celina model houses to the more expansive Mikaela.

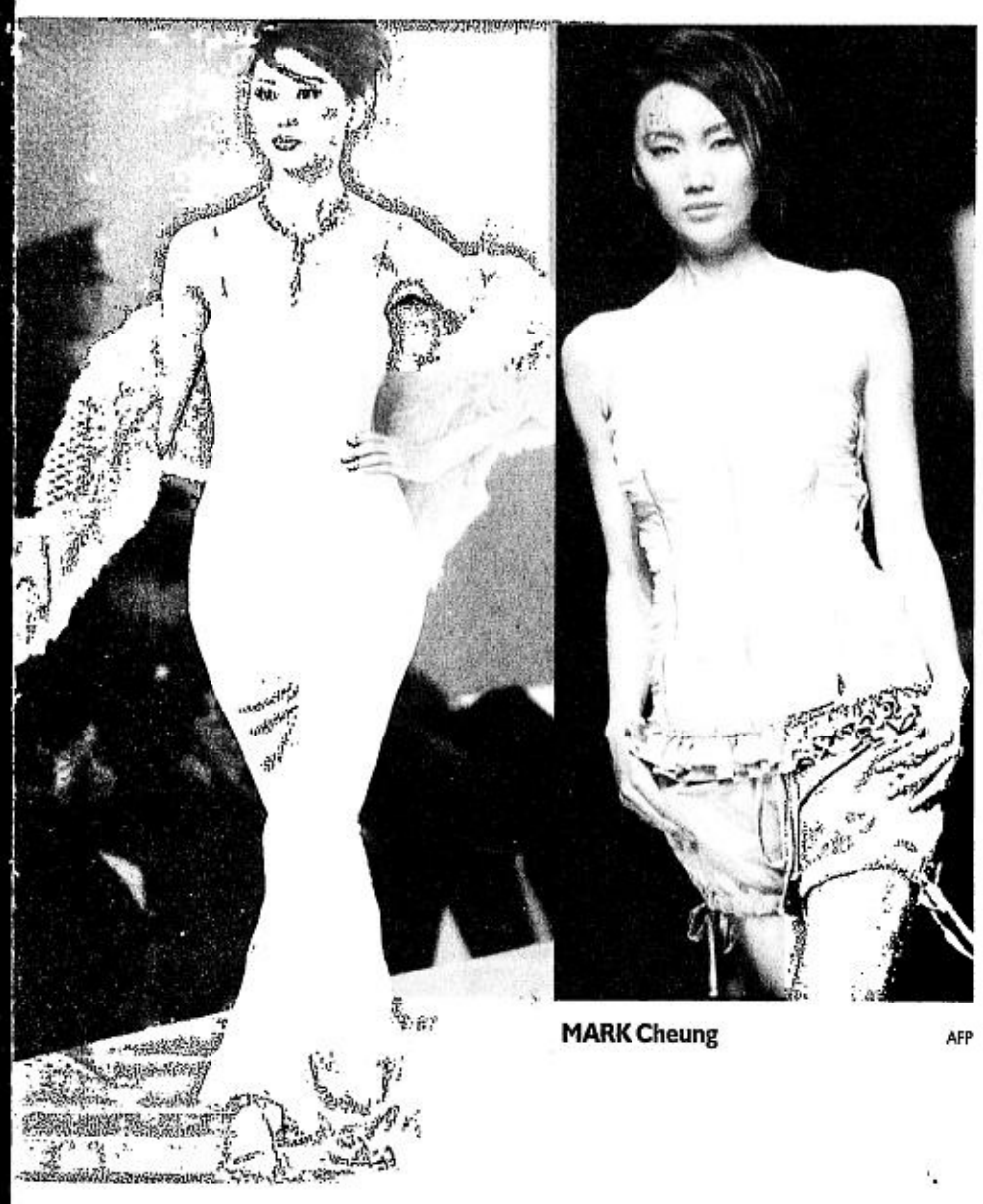
It is 45 minutes away from Makati, 30 minutes away from the Ortigas Center and a few minutes away from top schools like the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, Assumption and De la Salle University. Robinsons and Sta. Lucia malls are just a short ride away.

Maia Alta offers affordable rates and easy financing schemes. Call 7260073 to 74 (Maia Alta Hotline).



FRENCH doors give a sense of expansiveness to the dining area.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



MARK Cheung AFP

AFP

'Perennial as the bamboo'

Story on page N1

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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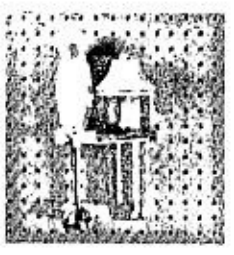

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An action-packed trampoline show featuring Olympic-trained acrobats from Australia

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Dec. 8-1pm, 3pm, 5pm
Dec. 9 - 5pm, 7pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Dec.12,13 & 14
11am, 3pm, 6pm

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Dec. 19 & 20
11am, 4pm, 7pm
Dec. 21
11:30am, 3:30pm, 6:30pm

ALASKA
POWDERED FILLED MILK

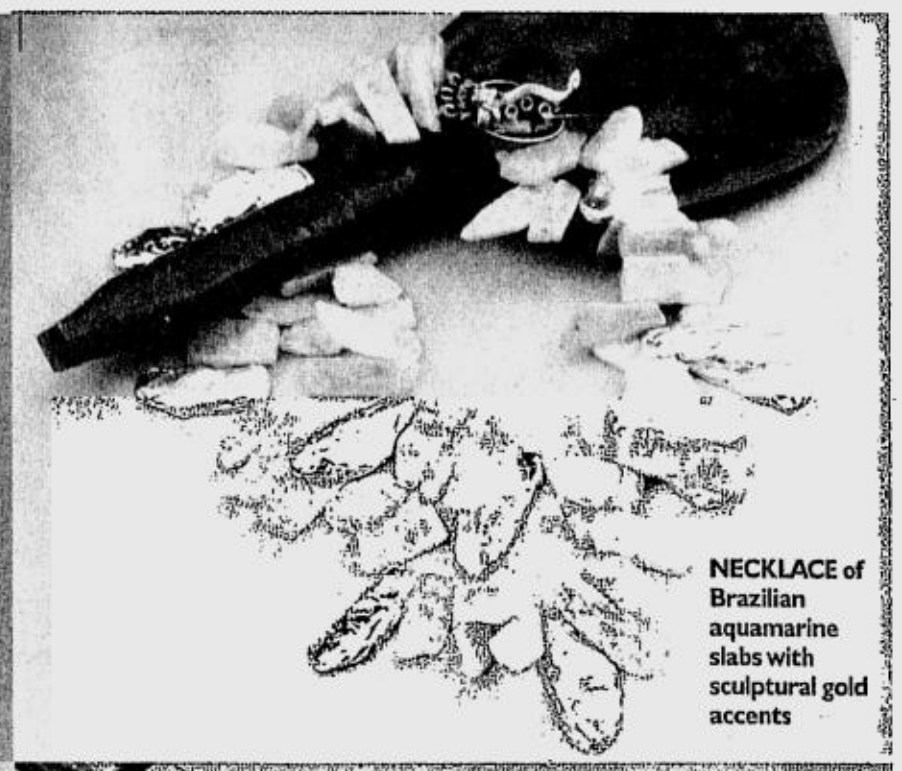
AYALA CENTER GLORIETTA

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

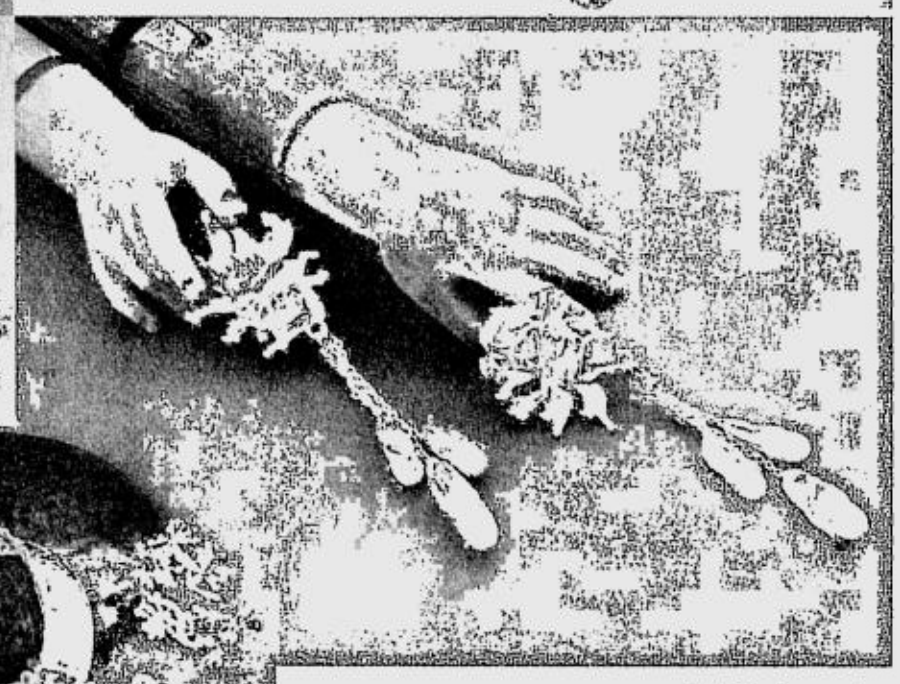
"KUAN Yin" pendant-brooch of carved jade with tourmalines

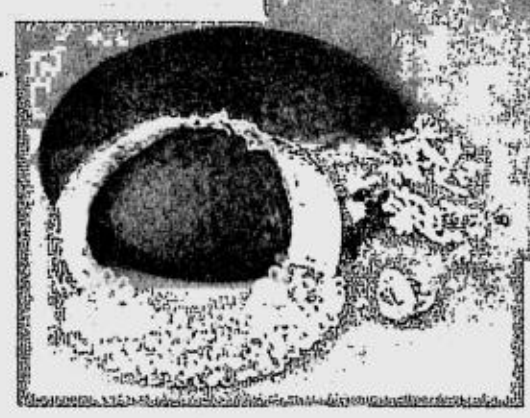
Winning jewelry from Wynn Wynn Ong



NECKLACE of Brazilian aquamarine slabs with sculptural gold accents

CUFFS with cabochon and faceted aquamarines, amethysts and tourmalines





EARRINGS of Italian-carved Mediterranean coral with dangling Japanese pink coral teardrops set in 98.5 percent silver with 5 microns of 24k goldleaf

RINGS of carved green aquamarine, rutilated quartz, plum tourmalines and rose quartz

The Burmese designer has all of Manila drooling over her precious gems

FIRMA at Greenbelt 3 has launched "Glittèrati," featuring the 2003-2004 jewelry collection of Burmese designer Wynn Wynn Ong.

Composed of three major lines, the collection was inspired by natural shapes such as leaves, flowers and sea forms.

One line features 14-k gold jewelry ranging from a pair of chandelier earrings with more than a hundred carats of tourmalines, to tiny twisted wire pinky rings with gem droplets that can be worn en masse on one finger.

The second line consists of necklaces and bracelets of semi-precious and investment-grade stones with handmade sculptural accents held together by the designer's distinctive dragon clasp.

The most stunning piece in the collection is a collar with 650 carats of high-grade translucent Brazilian aquamarine briolettes cascading in varying shades from two gold horns.

The third line features sculptural 24-k plated silver art pieces that are individually formed, forged and finished by hand. Each is stamped with the Naga logo indicating design authenticity.

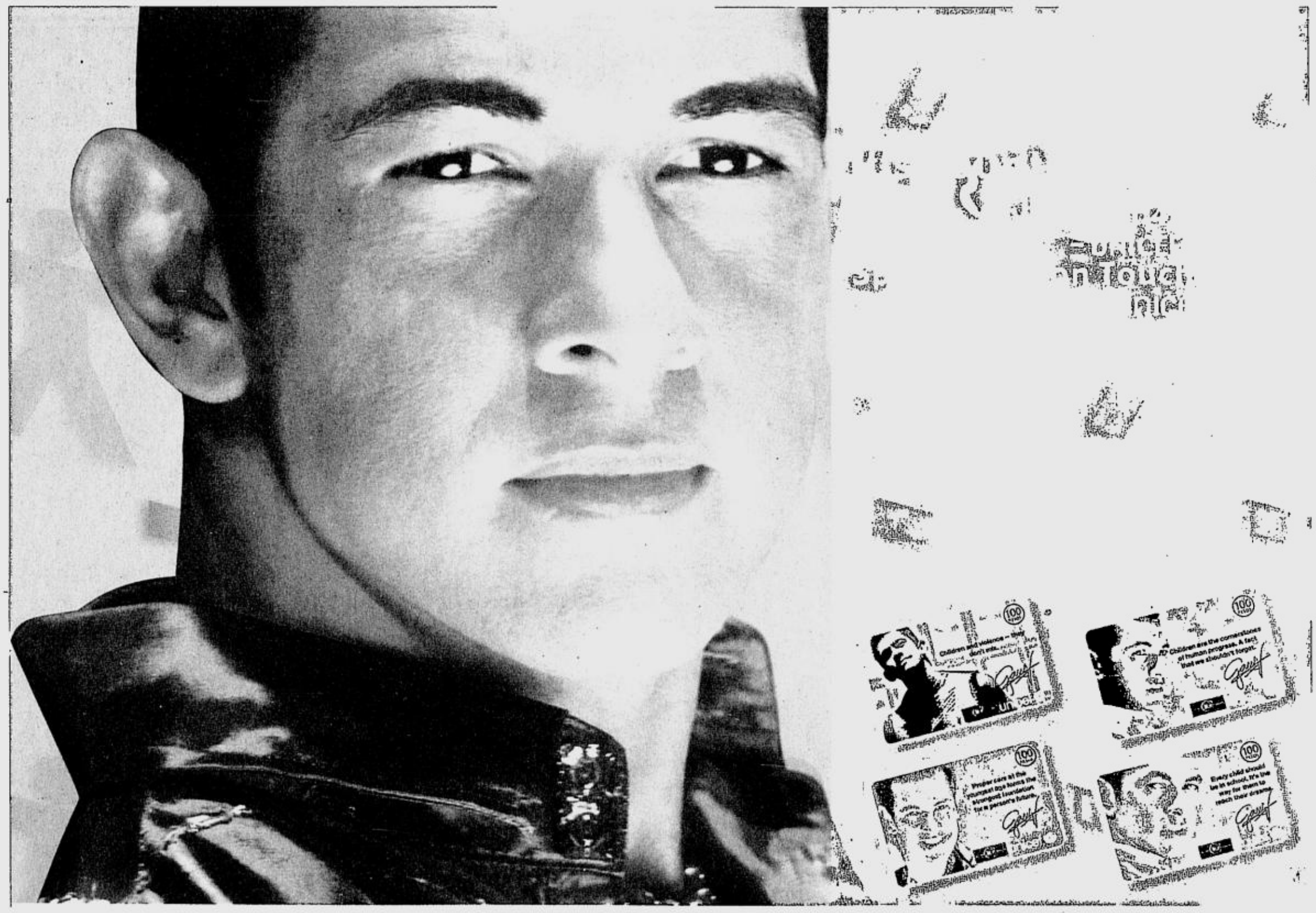
One piece alone, the striking layered cuff Bound, took two months to develop. The designer researched 15th- and 16th-century metal-forging techniques to get what she considered the perfect texture.

Ong's works are considered collectible art pieces, some even are used as *objets d'art*.

Among Manila's elite who wear Ong's jewelry are Mons Tantoco, Sam Eduque, Cristina Araneta, Toni and Maria Parsons, Josephine Knox, Margarita Fores, Bettina Osmeña, Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Margarita Delgado, Ines Delgado and Vivien Tan.

A limited men's line of jewelry is added this year. Hair combs and ornaments, designed for the Terno Ball at the Metropolitan Museum, are also included in the collection.

Naga jewelry is available exclusively at Firma, G/F Greenbelt 3, Makati (tel. 7574009) and at Lane Crawford in Hong Kong.



GARY V. XTREME

In line with Gary V.'s 20th Anniversary Concert, PLDT launches this special edition call card. Part of your purchase of this call card guarantees you a donation to UNICEF. You get the best NDD rate at P3.00 per minute (NDD to landline calls), you get to move children's lives, so you better get one now. PLDT Touch Cards are available in all PLDT Business Offices, LBC Stations, SM Malls, 7-11 Outlets, and other authorized dealers nationwide.

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Top 10 reasons FPJ is running for President

9 Malacañang will make a perfect backdrop for the next "Panday" sequel.

8 He's trained for vicious combat and will fight even supernaturals like... Noli de Castro

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

10 It's better to have a league of Swanie's ladies than Mike Arroyo's minions.

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Piandré Greenbelt
816-3884 ; 816-4002

Like a well-timed twist in one of his hit movies, Da King has announced he's gunning for 2004. What makes him run? Let us count the bullets

Guyito says 'I do'

See page G1

YOSHINOYA

Japan's No.1 Beef Bowl is here!

Heart Evangelista

Even Heart Evangelista can't get enough of the Yoshinoya Beef Bowl. It is made from a century old recipe of premium, thinly sliced beef simmered in a savory blend of herb and spices. And served on a bowl of delicious, steaming white rice for a very satisfying and filling meal.

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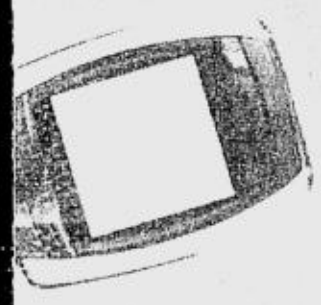
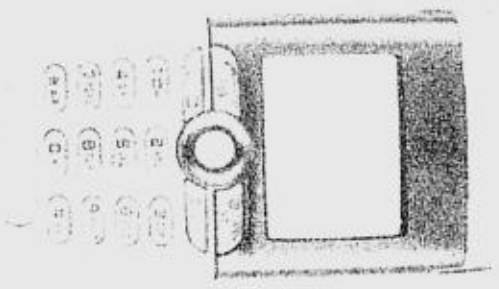
SUN BLAST

The Ultimate Mobile Mania





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See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3547, Series of 2003.

Top 10 reasons FPJ is running for President

7 He believes his movie goons can end all kinds of crime—kidnapping, rape, bank robberies and, zip-a-dee-doo-dah, p-l-u-n-d-e-r.

6 He thinks that we think Swanie thinks there will be no presidential children who are wannabe actors.

5 If he wins, everyone will migrate and the population crisis will be solved.

4 Globe, Smart and Sun are ready to bankroll him because they'll rake it in with the endless text jokes. . . or "kita tayo sa Edsa" text messages.

3 So he can stop making movies where he stars opposite ever younger girls. Imagine this: Starring FPJ and Frankie Pangilinan. Or Juliana Gomez. Scary!

2 Edgardo Angara wants to be President. Eeew!

1 Tito Sotto wants to be President. Double eeew!

Rustans

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Completes The Season

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K1

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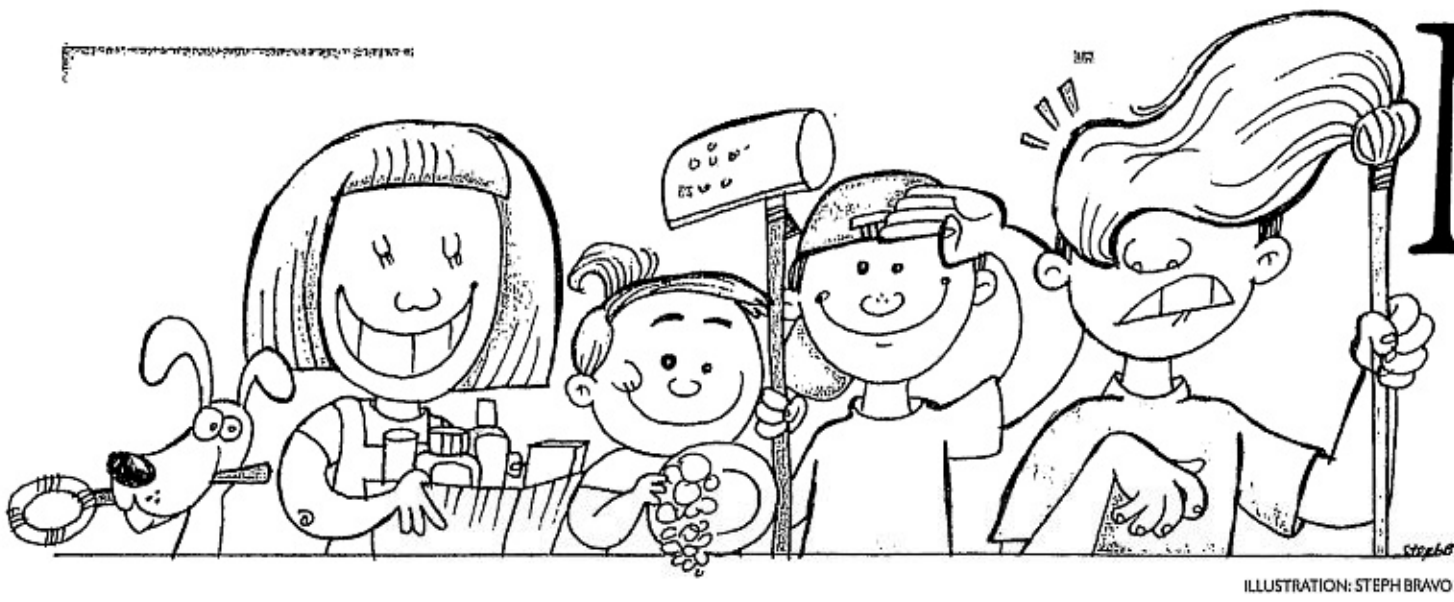


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Merry cleanup

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Johnny Villena

BEFORE you put up the Christmas tree and deck the halls, clean the whole house because nothing turns off holiday guests more than dirt and grime.

Lifestyle sought out Alma Ponce de Leon, executive housekeeper of Oakwood Premier at Ayala Center, and Michael Puyat, head of SuperCleaners, a professional cleaning service, for cleaning strategies and tips that hopefully will be helpful to homeowners already caught up in the demands of the season.

Don't, for a moment, think you have to take on the general housecleaning all by your lonesome. Please, you're not Wonder Woman. Share the cleaning load with your family and househelp.

Start with the bedrooms. Follow with the den or study room, family or living room, dining room and kitchen. Do the bathrooms outside the bedrooms last.

Room by room

• In each bedroom, clean the bathroom first, then dust and vacuum-clean the ceiling, walls, shelves, windows, screens, upholstered furniture, floor area and mattress, in that order.

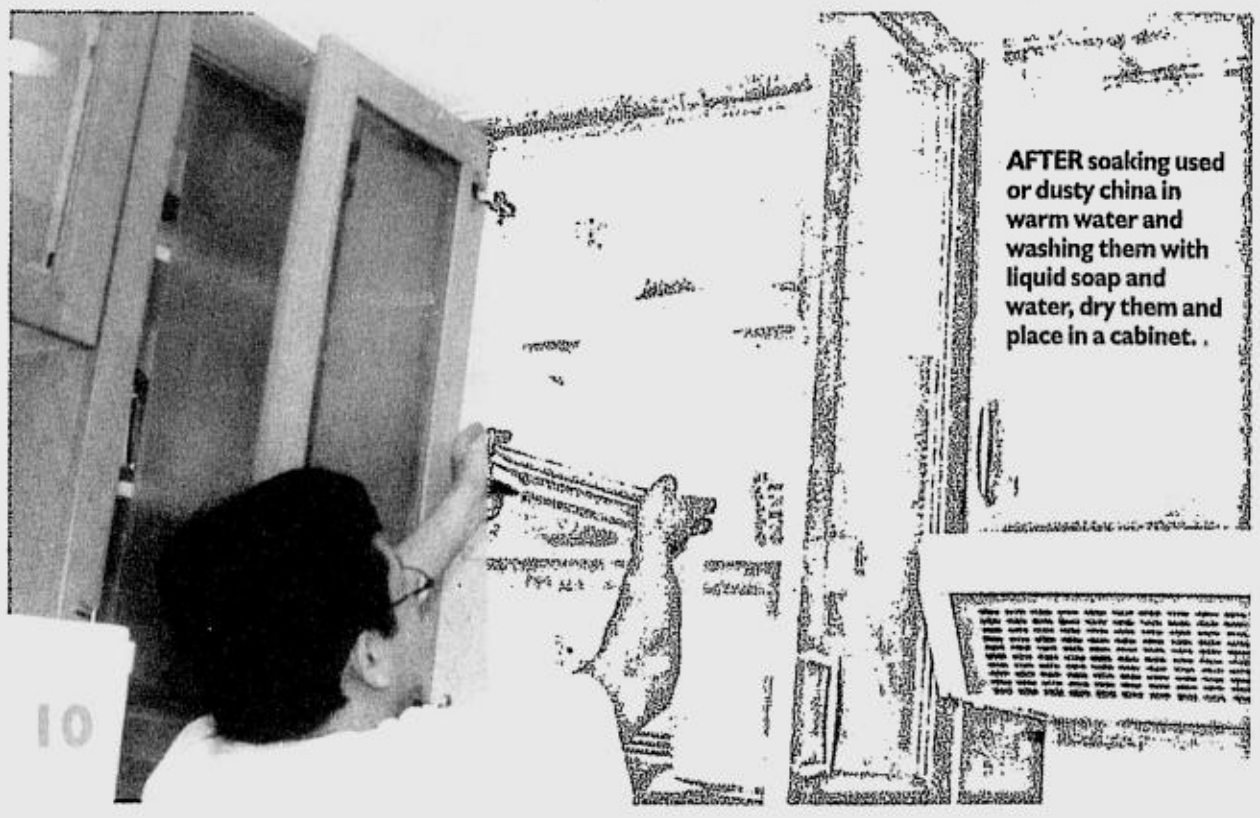
Use the water-filter type of vacuum cleaner with different attachments for the floor, wall, ceiling, beds, carpets and for deep cleaning of mattresses and upholstered furniture. Dirt is trapped in the machine's swirling water instead of recirculating in the air.

Mattresses need weekly airing outdoors at around noontime if possible. Vacuum-clean the mattress and pillows. Change the beddings.

Use a moistened mop for hard floors and a moistened rag for table tops, walls, screens, shelves, and figurines. Feather dusters are a no-no.

In each bathroom, remove the trash and soiled linens so they don't get in the way. Scrub the toilet bowl around the inner rim, the body, base and toilet seat. Dry well. Next do the tub (if there is one), vanity counter and wash

MERRY/K2



AFTER soaking used or dusty china in warm water and washing them with liquid soap and water, dry them and place in a cabinet. .

CLEAN a stove/oven with an oven cleaner.

Merry cleanup

Roll up your sleeves and get rid of grime and dust around the house—Christmas is just around the corner

From page K1

basin.

Scrub tiled walls with a wool pad dipped in liquid cleanser, from top to bottom. Dry the walls well to avoid developing mould and mildews. To clean stubborn mould, use chlorine diluted in small amount of hot water.

For glass panels, use a clean rag. Rub in a circular fashion until the glass becomes shiny.

Use a long-handled scrubber on tiled floors. Rinse and mop dry.

In the kitchen, remove trash and items that should be thrown away so you'll have more space to work on. Clean the floor with a moistened mop.

Clean the refrigerator with a moistened rag and mild dish detergent (defrost another day because it will be too much work for one day). Put in a box of fresh baking soda.

Clean the oven/stove with an oven cleaner and grill cleaner. Or follow what's indicated in the manuals of such items. Move the oven/stove so you can clean the spot where it's located.

"Your best solvent is still plain water, as long as the area has not been neglected for a long time. Otherwise, you have to buy products for specific stains or you'd need to re-tile and repaint. When getting chemicals get those that have fruit scents," de Leon advises.

In all the rooms, get rid of cobwebs with the long attachment of a water-filtered vacuum cleaner.

Carpets and area rugs should be shampooed early in the morning. Open all windows or dry them outdoors.

A sofa's deep cleaning takes 10-20 minutes while scrubbing, shampooing and drying, 20 minutes.

The best way to clean an aircon is to take out its front cover and pull out the filter. Wash the filter with running water, dry and reset. Wipe all exterior surfaces with a moistened rag.

For the garage, use a hand scrubber dipped in liquid cleanser for walls, but do call a professional pressure-washing service to degrease dirty and greasy cement floor.

Tools of the trade

Sponges, cleaning rags and chemicals are still the heart and soul of cleaning. But the following items can help homeowners clean their homes on a regular basis.

A heavy-duty twin scrub pad is recommended for removing tough stains and caked spills on your stove, pots and pans, oven and utensils.

Baking soda is a non-abrasive scrubber and a fabric/laundry detergent. Vinegar is a good film remover and de-greaser. Borax is also a strong de-greaser. Liquid soap is an all-purpose cleaner and sudsing agent that can be used with scrubbers and spray cleaners.

SuperCleaners offers general cleaning, 10-inch deep cleaning of mattresses, pillows, comforters, sofas, carpets and car interiors to extract dust, dust mites and other allergens that may cause asthma, rhinitis, hay fever, eczema and skin allergies.

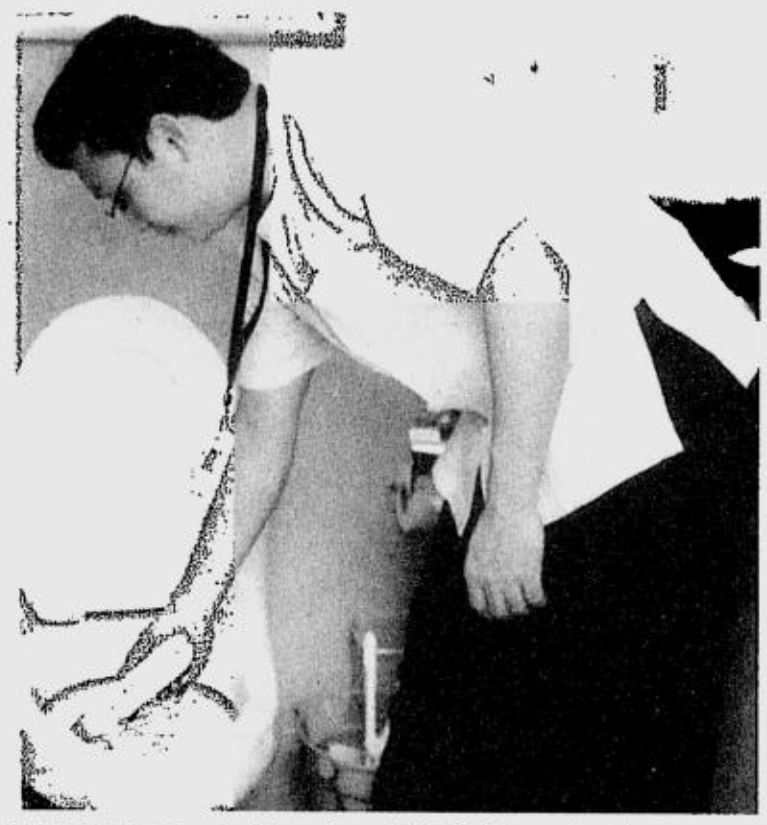
As an added service, Puyat says SuperCleaners teaches maids effective cleaning routines they can do on their own.

"I give them a schedule and what and how to use solutions. Usually, I tell a maid to avoid using a broom and use a wet mop instead. Instead of the feather duster, it's better to use a clean wet rag. If one's going to clean a dirty wall, one has to blend detergent with water."

Call SuperCleaners at 8216060/0917-6951855 or e-mail info@superhome.com.ph.

Oakwood Premier, located at Ayala Center, Makati City, may be reached at tel. 7298888.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



USE a scrub pad soaked in water and liquid detergent or cleaner to clean a toilet bowl. Scrub the inner rim, body, base and toilet seat.

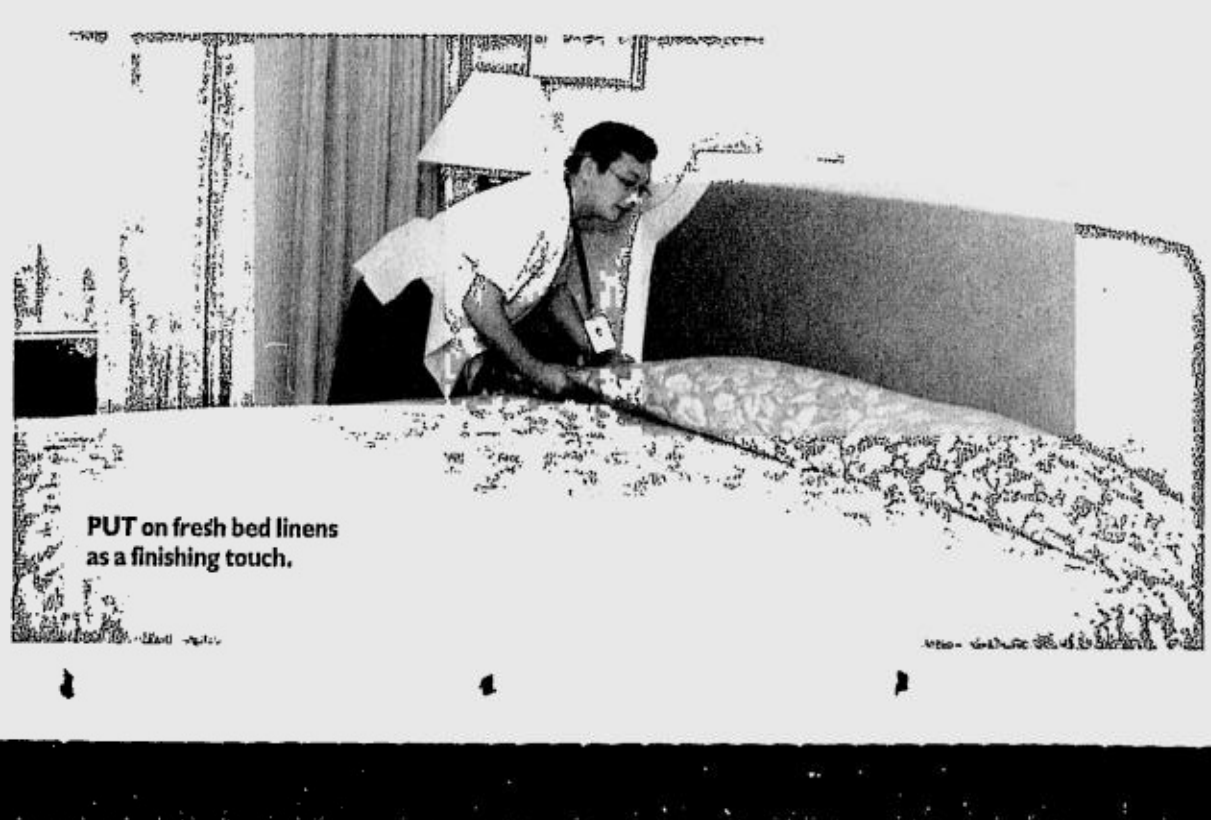
REMOVE dirt on glass panels using a clean rag.

WHEN cleaning a mirror, use a clean rag. Rub in a circular fashion until the glass becomes shiny.

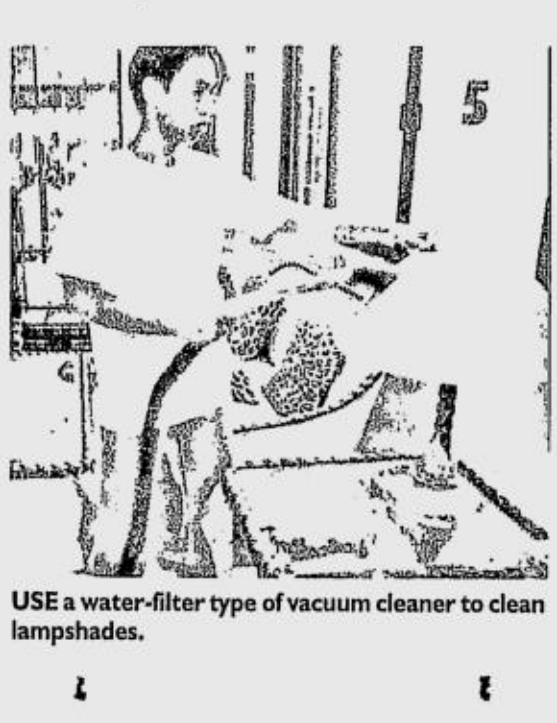
USE a long-handle vacuum cleaner to clean hard-to-reach areas of the room.

IN CLEANING a bedroom, change the beddings last.

GET rid of cobwebs using the vacuum cleaner's lengthy attachment.



PUT on fresh bed linens as a finishing touch.



USE a water-filter type of vacuum cleaner to clean lampshades.

EGAY MONTANA

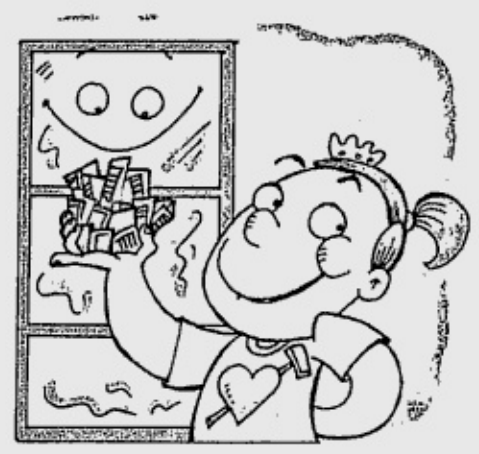
9 tips to make cleaning a snap

HERE are tips to make housecleaning easier, courtesy area manager Alberto Guevarra, area manager for Mila del Sol's Superior Maintenance Services (8073038, 8075542, 8090269 to 71, 8076479; e-mail superior@janitor.com.ph):

Combine. Save time by carrying cleaning items in a bucket and tidying the room in a clockwise direction. Make the bed completely on one side, then walk around the bed to complete the other side.

Double up. Keep cleaning supplies on each floor so you won't waste time walking up and down steps.

Spot-treat. For set stains, spray carpet or upholstery cleaner on the stain. Work the cleaner toward the center of the stain with a



putty or bread-and-butter knife. Place a white terry cloth rag over the stain. Position a steam iron set at medium heat on the cloth, checking the cloth and surface frequently. Repeat if necessary after 45 seconds. Then, rinse the treated area with water and blot dry.

Color-coordinate. Use the same color rag or sponge to do a task each time (e.g. blue for furniture, pink for bathroom cleaner) to avoid mixing cleaning agents.

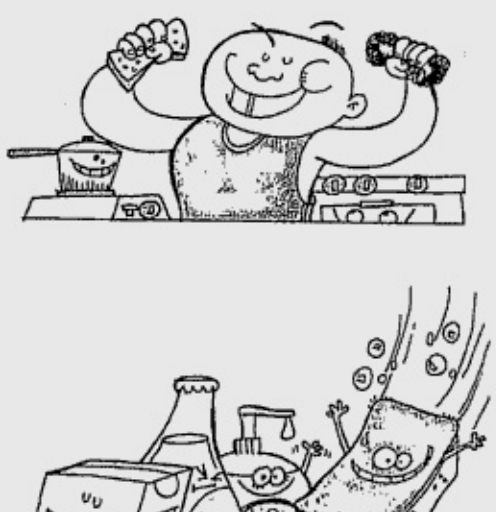
Use Squeegee. It's faster than using a towel, and leaves mirrors and windows streak-free.

Follow spray/spread/stay, scrub/rinse /dry steps. For hard-to-clean surfaces like shower tiles, spray cleanser, spread it and let it work while you do another task. Later, scrub the surface, rinse well and dry. Skipping the rinse and dry steps will leave behind chemicals that can build up over time, and the moisture can cause mold growth in as little as 24 hours.

Sniff. Spray air freshener in the corners of the room rather than in the center of the room. This allows the scent to penetrate the air more fully. Change the scent every three months to "keep a nose for it," or you might overwhelm the room with too heavy a dousing.

Trap dust. Use cheesecloth to keep dust from moving about. Open your heating/air conditioning registers and cut a piece of cheesecloth to fit under the register. The cheesecloth will trap the dust.

Maintain order. Do one quick job each day to keep organized and minimize time on cleaning day. Organize utensils while waiting for dinner to be cooked, for example, or straighten a bookshelf while chatting on the phone.



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

AMBASSADORS' LADIES
The Philippine Ambassadors Ladies Association (Pala) held its luncheon meeting at the Mandarin Hotel with Ambassador Lise Favre of Switzerland as the guest speaker (standing second from right). Standing from left are Marge Tambunting, Vicky Montilla, Betty Urquiola, Yrna Ileto, Cora Ortega Espiritu, Ambassador Favre and Cora Abat. Seated are Charito Melchor, Nelie Delgado, Ely Suarez and Pilar Teehankee. Not in photo are Mely Moreno and Eloy Yan.

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0779 series of 2003.

Seven decades of sisterhood

THE SIGMA Delta Phi Sorority will hold a grand reunion at 6 p.m., Dec. 5, in the Centennial Hall of the Manila Hotel.

Marking its 70th anniversary this year, the sorority was set up in 1933 by five young women from University of the Philippines. The bright and vivacious members of the Sigma Delta Phi Sorority, Zeta Chapter, an organization devoted to dramatics and fine arts, became prominent figures in and out of campus.

LOS Baños sisters in a 1955 pink party. The UP Sigma Delta Phi sorority celebrates its 70th anniversary this year.

A chapter of the sorority was created in UP Los Baños in 1955.

The sorority would later be associated with such words as "accomplished," "talented." It was considered among the crème de la crème of Greek-lettered student organizations, producing memorable musicales like the original "Mariang Maya" by multi-awarded Virginia Moreno in the early '50s or the original "Niobe" in 1960.

From 1963 to the early '70s, Sigma Delta Phi came up with some of Broadway's best like "Once upon a Mattress", "7½ Cents (Pajama Game)," "Guys & Dolls," "Flower Drum Song," and "Bye, Bye Birdie."

The growing activism of the '70s and '80s saw the sorority involved in national issues.

After 70 years, the sorority that the five women began is still very much alive and devoted to the pursuit of excellence. This time, the membership is composed of sisters in almost all fields of endeavor.

In 1983, when the sorority marked it's 50th anniversary, it established the Mariang Maya awards to recognize the outstanding and meritorious work and contributions to society by individual Sigma Deltans.

Call 9311333.

MEMBERS of Sigma Delta's current board: (seated) Tanya Cruz, alumni association president Linda Gamboa, Maripaz Chua; (back row) Nadia Buenafe, Baby Olivar, Michele Antonio, Jing Gecolea, Vee Sese

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ANTIQUE brass pieces sold by MKM Brassware

Repository of Mindanao's history, culture and tradition

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

LOOKING much less urbanized than other major cities in Mindanao, Cotabato City nevertheless anchors much of the history and tradition that makes the Philippines' second largest island different from and yet the same as the rest of the country.

The city is the center and the jewel of the part of Mindanao occupied by the Maguindanao group of Filipino Muslims. A mighty river, the Rio Grande de Mindanao, runs through it but it also sits close to earthquake faults, according to an architect, making it unwise to build structures higher than five stories.

It seems to be still caught in that twilight zone between tradition and modernity, but the people of Cotabato pride themselves for, in effect, starting what the island has become today.

The city's history is traced back to the 15th century, a century ahead of Portuguese Ferdinand Magellan's discovery of the Philippines for Spain in 1521.

Shariff Kabunsuan (also spelled Serif Kabungsuan), an Arab missionary, landed along the banks of the country's second largest and Mindanao's longest river. Kabunsuan, who would marry into the local royal family, introduced Islam to what became the sultanate of Maguindanao, and the religion would spread from there to a large part of Mindanao and some parts of the Visayas and Luzon.

The Spaniards would strengthen Cotabato's place in Philippine history when it established in the 19th century a military post at Barangay Tamontaka, one of the earliest Christian settlements. In fact, Cotabato is adapted from the local phrase for a stone fortress, which the city was during the Spanish era. One of the oldest Catholic churches in the country was built in what is now known as Barangay Tamontaka Mother.

Nurturing a heritage

If much of Mindanao's history sprang from Cotabato's past, the city also established and continues to nurture an artistic and cultural heritage that has made the southern island distinct from the rest of the country. That heritage derives mainly from the Islamic tradition and way of life.

Eventually, the origin of those art and craft pieces that northern Filipinos have learned to associate with Mindanao would be blurred and, with Zamboanga, Cagayan de Oro and primarily Davao City becoming the centers of trade, commerce, political and socio-cultural activities, Cotabato's—and the Maguindanao-ons'—distinctive heritage gets overlooked in the process.

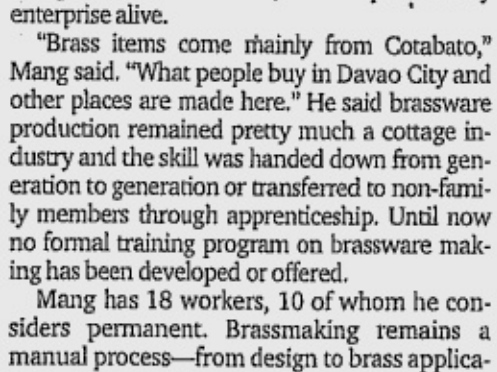
It is an omission that Mohamad K. Mang, proprietor of MKM Brassware (tel. 0916-8431068), laments. Mang is a sixth-generation brass-smith. He started his apprenticeship into the family business at the age of 12 in 1974. Today, he is one of eight out of 10 children, who keep the family enterprise alive.

"Brass items come mainly from Cotabato," Mang said. "What people buy in Davao City and other places are made here." He said brassware production remained pretty much a cottage industry and the skill was handed down from generation to generation or transferred to non-family members through apprenticeship. Until now no formal training program on brassware making has been developed or offered.

Mang has 18 workers, 10 of whom he considers permanent. Brassmaking remains a manual process—from design to brass application. Although some workers occasionally bring home their work, much of the procedure has to be done in the MKM compound consisting of two or three small nipa huts where the wax molds and clay "cooking" chambers are made and the melted brass poured.

MKM makes the familiar *kulintang*, a musical instrument consisting of gongs of different sizes, decorative items and cooking utensils. Workers spend eight hours a day, six days a week (Friday, the Muslim's equivalent of the Christian's Sunday, is a non-working day). Mang said a good worker could finish one large *kulintang* in three days or three sets in 10 days. A large *kulintang*

REPOSITORY/ L2



TWO antique octagonal brass jewelry boxes

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2755 Series of 2003

BAI Sandra Sema, wife of Cotabato City Mayor Datu Muslimin G. Sema and a former education undersecretary, displays her family's collection of antique gongs and other brassware.

THE HANDLOOM used for *malong* weaving has remained virtually unchanged through the years.

Repository of Mindanao's history . . .

From page L1

THE WAX mold of a jewelry box is placed inside a clay container. It melts when hot brass is poured, leaving the design impression on the hardening metal.

sells for P3,000 in Cotabato while a medium-sized costs P2,500. The smallest that is about as big as a kid's xylophone costs P1,800.

While the finished products sold in Davao and Zambonga came from Cotabato City, Mang said the brass they used came from those cities and Marawi and General Santos.

Weaving a history

On the other side of the city, women carry on a tradition that has also been part of their lives and those of generations before them. In Barangay Bulalo, handlooms, not much different from those used scores of years ago, occupy what should have been receiving areas of many homes. The women of the houses—wives, daughters, sisters, nieces and other female relatives—sit before the looms or *iruan* in between doing household chores to weave the colorful and silky fabrics they have traditionally worn, the *malong*.

The designs are pretty much traditional as well, with a few occasional updating like the addition of the ornate Marimar, the origin of which should be pretty obvious to telenovela junkies.

Like brassmaking, the skills are handed down to younger family members by their elders. Datu Manidsin Balabaran, vice chair of the city's tourism council, said, "We tried to centralize the weaving by putting the looms in one place and making the women work there for a specific number of hours every day. But the women were not comfortable with the arrangement." They preferred to do their weaving at home where they could work at their own pace and when they had time to spare.

Noraysa Hashim, a *malong* weaver for 15 years or since she was 12 and who worked on a loom owned by her brother, said it took her five days to finish the intricate Marimar pattern and three days to do the less elaborate designs like the Tungkop and Kuripis. Finished pieces of *malong* were brought to Davao City or even Manila.

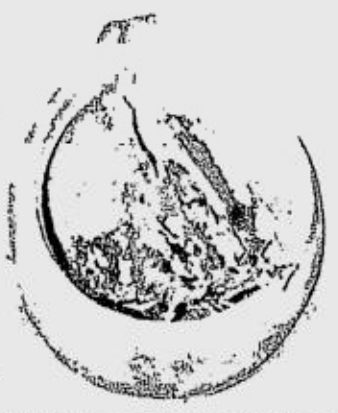
"A four-meter finished Marimar *malong* costs P950 while a Tungkop and similar designs sell for P850," Hashim said. She added that people were also now buying the hand-woven fabric as dress material. The weavers sold a dress material—two meters long—for P300 (Marimar) or P200.

Hashim said they also did shawls, with plain ones selling for P750 each.

Bai Sandra Sema, wife of Cotabato City Mayor Datu Muslimin G. Sema and a former education undersecretary, says the Maguindanao *malong* is very much part of the culture and history of Muslim Mindanao. She is spearheading a book project about the traditional costume of Maguindanao-ons that will also give a historical view of Cotabato City.

E-mail the author at lbolido@hotmail.com

COLORFUL *malong* waiting for buyers



MANG says 12 kilos of brass are needed to make a large eight-piece *kulintang*.

MANG'S 11-year-old nephew is learning how to carve the design into the wax mold.

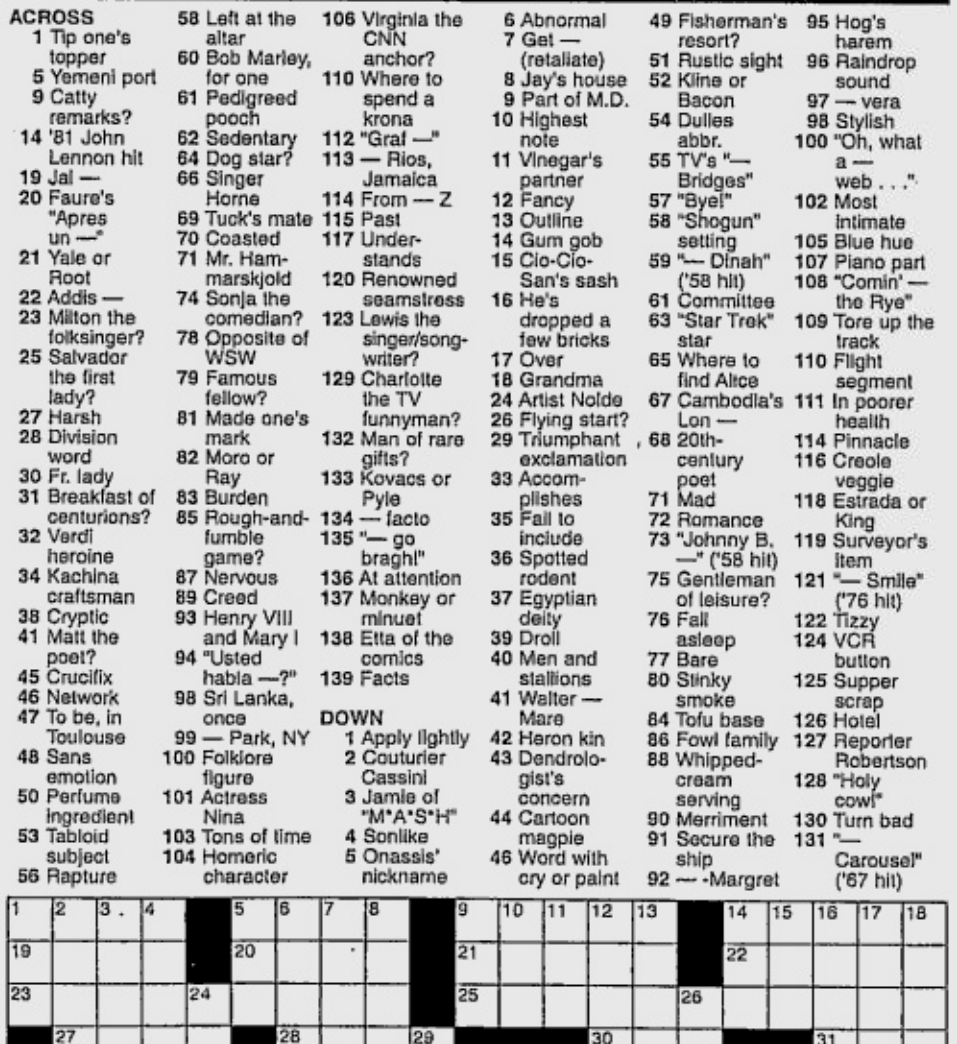
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST

ACROSS
1 Tip one's topper
5 Yemeni port
9 Catty remarks?
14 '81 John Lennon hit
19 Jai —
20 Faure's "Apres un —"
21 Yale or Root
22 Addis —
23 Milton the folksinger?
25 Salvador the first lady?
27 Harsh
28 Division word
30 Fr. lady
31 Breakfast of centurions?
32 Verdi heroine
34 Kachina craftsman
38 Cryptic
41 Matt the poet?
45 Crucifix
46 Network
47 To be, in Toulouse
48 Sans emotion
50 Perfume ingredient
53 Tabloid subject
56 Rapture
58 Left at the altar
60 Bob Marley, for one
61 Pedigreed pooch
62 Sedentary
64 Dog star?
66 Singer Horne
69 Tuck's mate
70 Coasted
71 Mr. Hammarskjold
74 Sonja the comedian?
78 Opposite of WSW
79 Famous fellow?
81 Made one's mark
82 Moro or Ray
83 Burden
85 Rough-and-tumble game?
87 Nervous
89 Creed
93 Henry VIII and Mary I
94 "Usted habla —?"
98 Sri Lanka, once
99 — Park, NY
100 Folklore figure
101 Actress Nina
103 Tons of time
104 Homeric character
106 Virginia the CNN anchor?
110 Where to spend a krona
112 "Graf —"
113 — Rios, Jamaica
114 From — Z
115 Past
117 Understands
120 Renowned seamstress
123 Lewis the singer/songwriter?
129 Charlotte the TV funnyman?
132 Man of rare gifts?
133 Kovacs or Pyle
134 — facto
135 "— go bragh!"
136 At attention
137 Monkey or minuet
138 Etta of the comics
139 Facts

DOWN
1 Apply lightly
2 Couturier Cassini
3 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"
4 Sonlike
5 Onassis' nickname
6 Abnormal
7 Get — (retaliate)
8 Jay's house
9 Part of M.D.
10 Highest note
11 Vinegar's partner
12 Fancy
13 Outline
14 Gum gob
15 Cio-Cio-San's sash
16 He's dropped a few bricks
17 Over
18 Grandma
24 Artist Nolde
26 Flying start?
29 Triumphant exclamation
33 Accomplishes
35 Fail to include
36 Spotted rodent
37 Egyptian deity
39 Droll
40 Men and stallions
41 Walter — Mare
42 Heron kin
43 Dendrologist's concern
44 Cartoon magpie
46 Word with cry or paint
49 Fisherman's resort?
51 Rustic sight
52 Kline or Bacon
54 Dulles abbr.
55 TV's "— Bridges"
57 "Bye!"
58 "Shogun" setting
59 "— Dinah" ('58 hit)
61 Committee
63 "Star Trek" star
65 Where to find Alice
67 Cambodia's Lon —
68 20th-century poet
71 Mad
72 Romance
73 "Johnny B. —" ('58 hit)
75 Gentleman of leisure?
76 Fall asleep
77 Bare
80 Stinky smoke
84 Tofu base
86 Fowl family
88 Whipped-cream serving
90 Merriment
91 Secure the ship
92 — -Margret
95 Hog's harem
96 Raindrop sound
97 — vera
98 Stylish
100 "Oh, what a — web . . ."
102 Most intimate
105 Blue hue
107 Piano part
108 "Comin' — the Rye"
109 Tore up the track
110 Flight segment
111 In poorer health
114 Pinnacle
116 Creole veggie
118 Estrada or King
119 Surveyor's item
121 "— Smile" ('76 hit)
122 Tizzy
124 VCR button
125 Supper scrap
126 Hotel
127 Reporter Robertson
128 "Holy cow!"
130 Turn bad
131 "— Carousel" ('67 hit)



answer on page I-3

CORY QUIRINO
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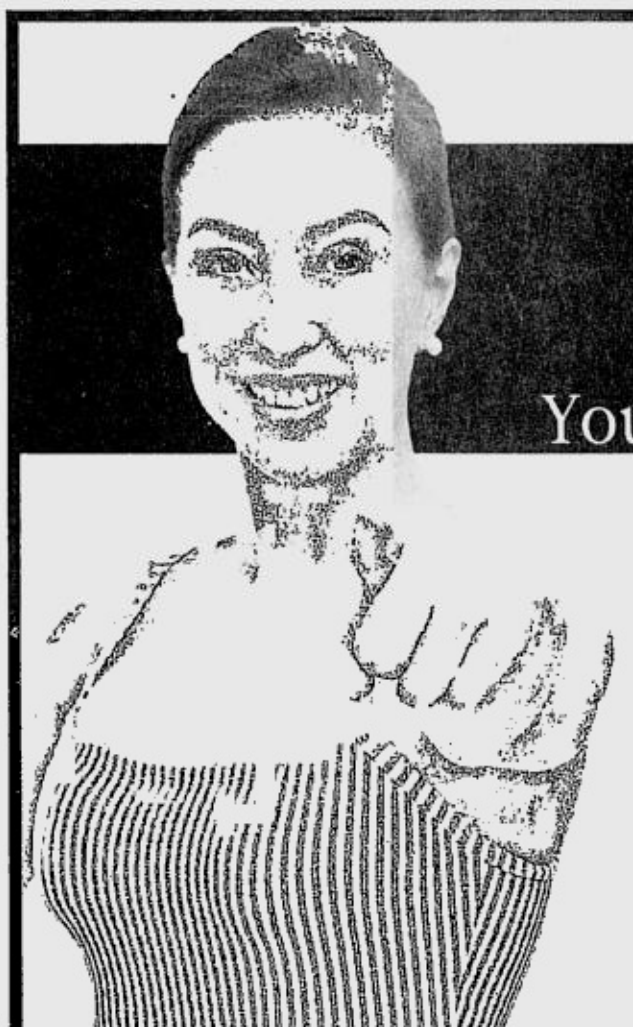

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ALL roads lead to Bulacan as SM City Marilao opens its doors to the public.

RESIDENTS of Marilao and nearby towns can now look forward to enjoying the mall's many amenities.

Mall perks up Bulacan town

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Rudy Esperas

IF an SM mall can be taken as an indication of progress, then it can be said the modest town of Marilao in Bulacan has "arrived."

Like a badge of honor and pride, the green-mustard-ochre-colored newest SM stands proudly at the heart of Marilao, brightening up the municipality's old downtown.

SM City Marilao was formally opened to the public on Nov. 28, only 23 days before Christmas. It is Henry Sy's 17th supermall and the last to open before the year ends (other malls opened earlier in the cities of Baguio and Lucena).

The simple blessing and inauguration rites were attended by the mall chain's top executives like Hans Sy, SM Prime senior vice president; Herbert Sy, SM Prime director; Felicidad Sy, wife of Sy Sr.; and Teresita Sy-Coson, SM president. Guests included Bulacan Vice Gov. Aurelio Flamenco, Marilao Mayor Leoncio Duran Jr. and his wife, Minerva, and Meycauayan Vice Mayor Dennis Carlo.

SM City Marilao sits on a 203,398-sq-m lot on the busy and narrow MacArthur Highway that leads to heavily populated towns like Obando, Bocaue and San Jose del Monte.

The façade is painted green in acknowledgment of the town's being still predominantly agricultural. The color is matched by a massive, well-manicured lawn to accommodate families who want to hang around outside the mall.

SM City Marilao is closely coordinating with the local government to avoid nightmarish traffic, a common feature of its sister malls in other places. "Every time we open a new mall, we team up with the local traffic enforcers and local government officials in order to have a smooth flow of traffic," says Millie Dizon, first vice president for marketing communications.

To ensure the safety of shoppers, SM built an overpass across MacArthur highway, as well as transportation terminals and waiting sheds around its vicinity.

With the opening of SM Marilao, many Bulacan residents, who normally go to SM West or SM Fairview, can do their shopping closer to home. Statistics indicate there are about 63 residential subdivisions and 52 factories in Marilao. Several colleges, universities, hospitals and industrial plants are located in nearby municipalities.

Bulakeños as tenants

According to Dizon, many mall tenants are Bulacan residents. "We really [encouraged] tenants from this area. We try [to get] local retailers to showcase their products... from popular delicacies to handicrafts. This [results in] synergy for the mall."

Local tenants from Bulacan with a stall or cart in the mall include Bingo Pinoy, BC-NY, Fruits n Waffles, Moon Glow Café, Penzon's Handicraft, Astra 500, Trinkets and Sasmuan Delicacies. Tenants with local franchisees include Bayo, Netopia, Plains and Prints, Unica Hija, Max's Restaurants, House of Nuts, Mr. Softy, Nacho King, Pao Express, Pick n Mix and Smokey's.

"We also try to integrate ourselves into the community. We try to do our share in community projects, such as Share A Toy and Donate A Book, which we give to different poor areas in Bulacan. We also have medical missions and mobile clinics as part of our project in Bulacan," says Dizon.

Residents of Marilao and nearby towns can look forward to shopping not only at SM Department Store but also Super SM Hypermarket. There are also SM Appliance Center, ACE Hardware, Our Home, Watson's Personal Care Store, Surplus Shop and Toy Kingdom, as well as fashion boutiques, jewelry and home stores, novelty shops, and service outlets. It also has computer and telecom stores.

The two-story mall has four state-of-the-art cinemas with a total seating capacity of 2,231, and amusement centers. The ample parking space can accommodate more than 700 cars.

HANS Sy, SM Prime senior vice president, leads the offertory during the thanksgiving Mass officiated by Bishop Jose Oliveros.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Garbage heroine throws a party

HATS off to Manila garbage heroine **Narda Camacho,** who, leaning on her diplomatic friends, raises millions to process garbage properly.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

She celebrated her birthday recently at the Manila Polo Club with a serenade of Filipino and American classics for her guests. *Tatang* **Nestor Mata** joined Narda in "Will You Remember?" and "Maalaala Mo Kaya?"

Narda Camacho celebrated her birthday with a serenade of Filipino and American classics for her guests

It was an extra special celebration because her son, **Jose Maria,** who lives in Illinois, came for the occasion. Her other children—former Finance Secretary **Lito, Teodoro, Jose Ramon, Marissa** and **Chacha**—were also there to help entertain dozens of friends from the diplomatic corps, government and the private sector.

Brunei Ambassador **Munah Elias,** together with Consul **Evie Costa** , sang two intermission numbers.

Others envoys present included Austrian Ambassador **Christian** and Mme. **Imgard Krepela,** Bangladesh Ambassador **Munir-Uz Zaman,** Belgian Ambassador **Christiaan** and Mme. **Gul Tanghe,** French Ambassador **Renée Veyret,** Egyptian Ambassador and Mme. **Saber Mansour,** Laos Ambassador and Mme. **Phiane Philakone,** Indian Ambassador **Navrekha Sharma,** Swiss Ambassador **Lise Favre.**

When the dancing started, British Ambassador **Paul Dimond** revealed he could do a mean cha-cha. Many others took to the dance floor, including Italian Ambassador **Umberto** and Mme. **Clara Colesanti,** as well as Consuls **Fortune Ledesma** and **Helen Ong.**

***

The diplomatic corps and Filipino friends of Turkish Ambassador **Tanju Sümer,** who have visited Turkey and learned to enjoy the cuisine, look forward to the Turkish National Day celebration every year, which always offers a sumptuous buffet of Turkish delights.

This year was no different, with the charming diplomat playing host at his elegant residence.

***

NARDA (second from right) with children Chacha, Marisa and Lito Camacho

You gotta admit Rustan's threw a great party for the official launch of the Italian festival, Le Maschere. Each of its six floors had costumed and masked jugglers, acrobats, giants (on stilts) greeting the guests as they arrived.

Ambassador **Bienvenido Tantoco,** daughters **Nedy** and **Marilen,** grandson **Anton Huang** and Italian Ambassador Umberto and Mme. Colesanti celebrated the Italian lifestyle with food and wine aplenty and a gorgeous fashion show of—what else—the Tutto Moda of Italian fashion: Valentino and Armani, Zegna and Ferragamo.

Surprise of the evening was emcee **Johnny Litton** introducing **Leila Benitez,** who was here for the 50th anniversary celebration of "Student Canteen."

BRITISH Ambassador Paul and Carolyn Dimond

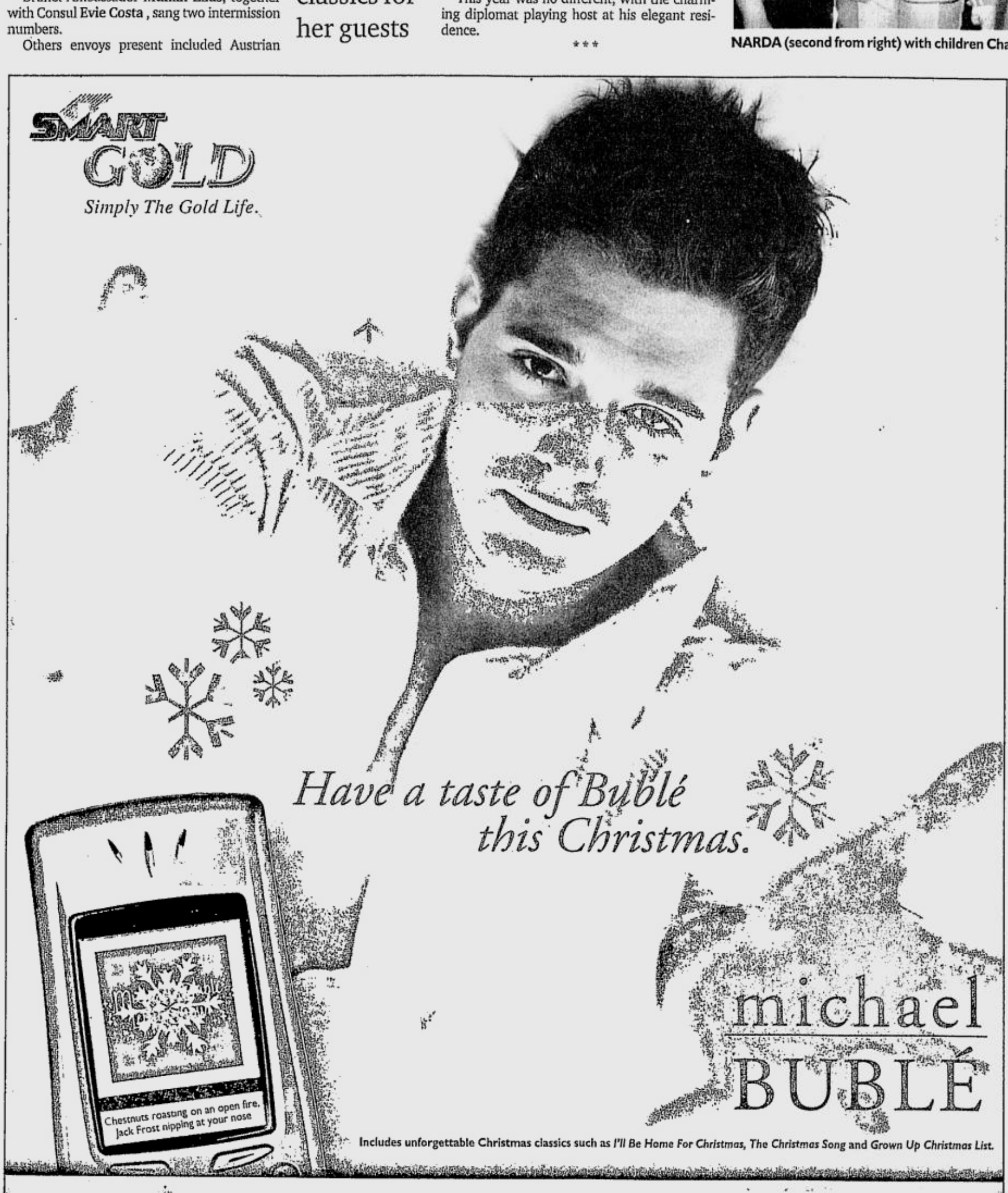
THAI Ambassador Busba Bunnag and Brunei Ambassador Maimunah Elias

PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao and Ulrike da Silva

CRISELDA Lontok, Italian Ambassador Umberto and Clara Colesanti

TURKISH Ambassador Tanju Sumer, Vicky Jaber and Victoria Yabut

SMART GOLD
Simply The Gold Life.



Includes unforgettable Christmas classics such as *I'll Be Home For Christmas, The Christmas Song* and *Grown Up Christmas List.*

Let the cool and soothing voice of Michael Bublé usher in the spirit of the Yuletide season. Download Michael Bublé Christmas logos, picture messages, ringtones, MMS images, and other downloadables* for a chance to win exclusive Christmas treats. Only from SMART.

Prizes at stake:
1. P5,000 worth of Penshoppe gift certificates daily.
2. Nokia 3100 weekly.
3. Chevrolet OPTRA Sedan in the Grand Draw.

Hurry! Promo ends January 15, 2004.
*Regular Michael Bublé downloadables still available.

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AVAILABLE IN STORES DECEMBER 2003.

KARAOKE
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White Christmas	WHITEXMAS
I'll Be Home For Christmas	ILLBEHOME
Christmas Song	XMASSONG

AND SEND TO 209.

RINGTONES
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Type POLY <keyword> and send to 209.

Let It Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!	LETITSNOW
White Christmas	WHITEXMAS
I'll Be Home For Christmas	HOME4XMAS
Grown Up Christmas List	XMASLIST
Christmas Song	XMASSONG

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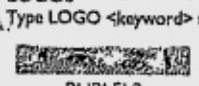
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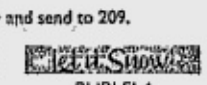

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PICTURE MESSAGES
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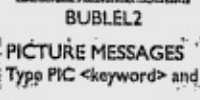
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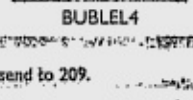

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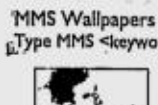
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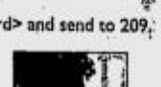
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Promo period is from November 28 to January 15, 2004.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4496, Series of 2003.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

M1

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or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Foundation hears kids' silent plea for help

Text by Belle V. Bondoc
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SINGER-ACTRESS Jolina Magdangal with cancer-stricken kids

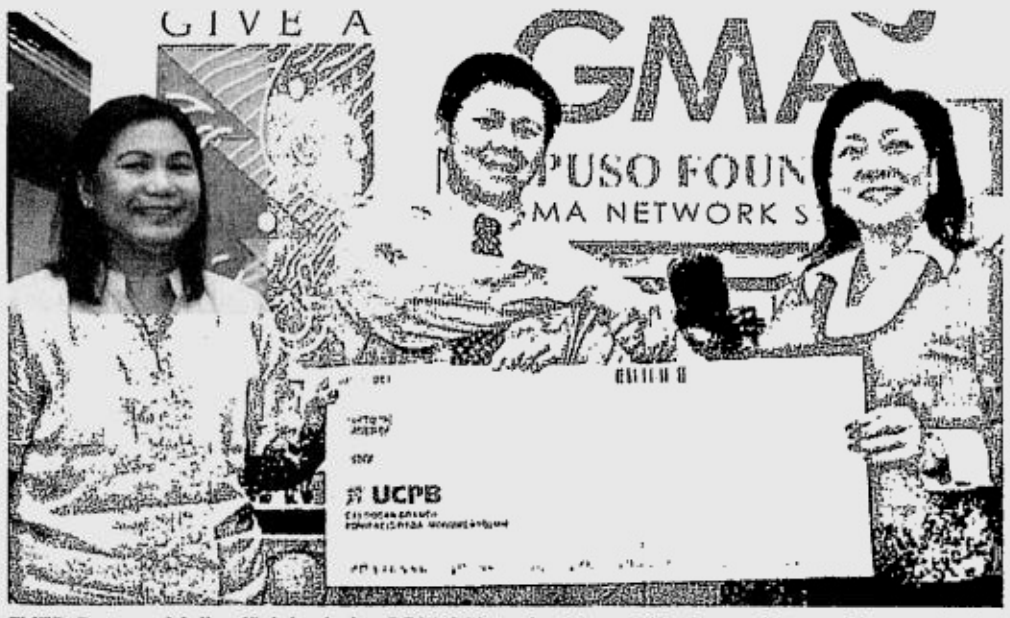
IT only takes a generous heart and some creativity to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate.

This is what the GMA Kapuso Foundation's project, Give a Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy, aims for—make less fortunate children happy, and not just during Christmas but all-year round. Every year, the foundation tries to bring cheer to indigent children.

Since its launch, the annual project has helped more than 300,000 underprivileged children nationwide. The six-year project targets poor children in conflict areas and those who are terminally ill (particularly cancer victims) and experiencing discrimination. It seeks to help child laborers, and indigenous and malnourished children as well.

This year, the project hopes to raise P4.7 million for its beneficiaries.

The foundation has become another instrument in GMA's commitment to provide *"Serbisyong Totoo"* in responding to the needs of the society.



EVER Gotesco Malls officials pledge P500,000 to the Give a Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy project of GMA Kapuso Foundation; broadcaster and foundation COO Mel Tiangco accepts.

Partnership forged

Recently, the Kapuso Foundation and its partners held a special launch and signing of certificate of partnership. More than 35 companies and organizations from different sectors are participating in Give a Gift: Alay sa Batang Pinoy.

The two-hour event was led by foundation chair Felipe L. Gozon, executive vice president and chief operating officer Mel Tiangco, and other members of the board.

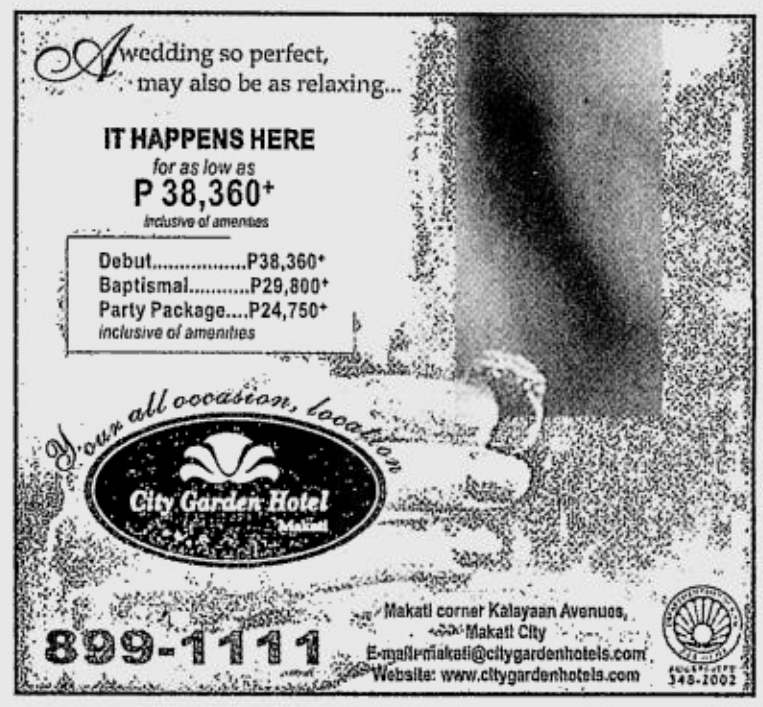
During the event, cancer-stricken kids JC, Derek and Adrian went onstage to thank their benefactors. The foundation sponsors chemotherapy for the kids.

Among the foundation's numerous individual, institutional and organizational partners are Ever Goteso Mall and Go Tong Foundation Inc., Converse and Pacific Internet.

Government agencies, restaurants, specialty stores, telecommunications companies, media groups, and other business companies have also made pledges such as the Alzate Family, AMA Computer University-Sta. Mesa, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Antiqueño Foundation International, Ayala AON, Centennial Transmarine Inc., Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Transportation and Communica-

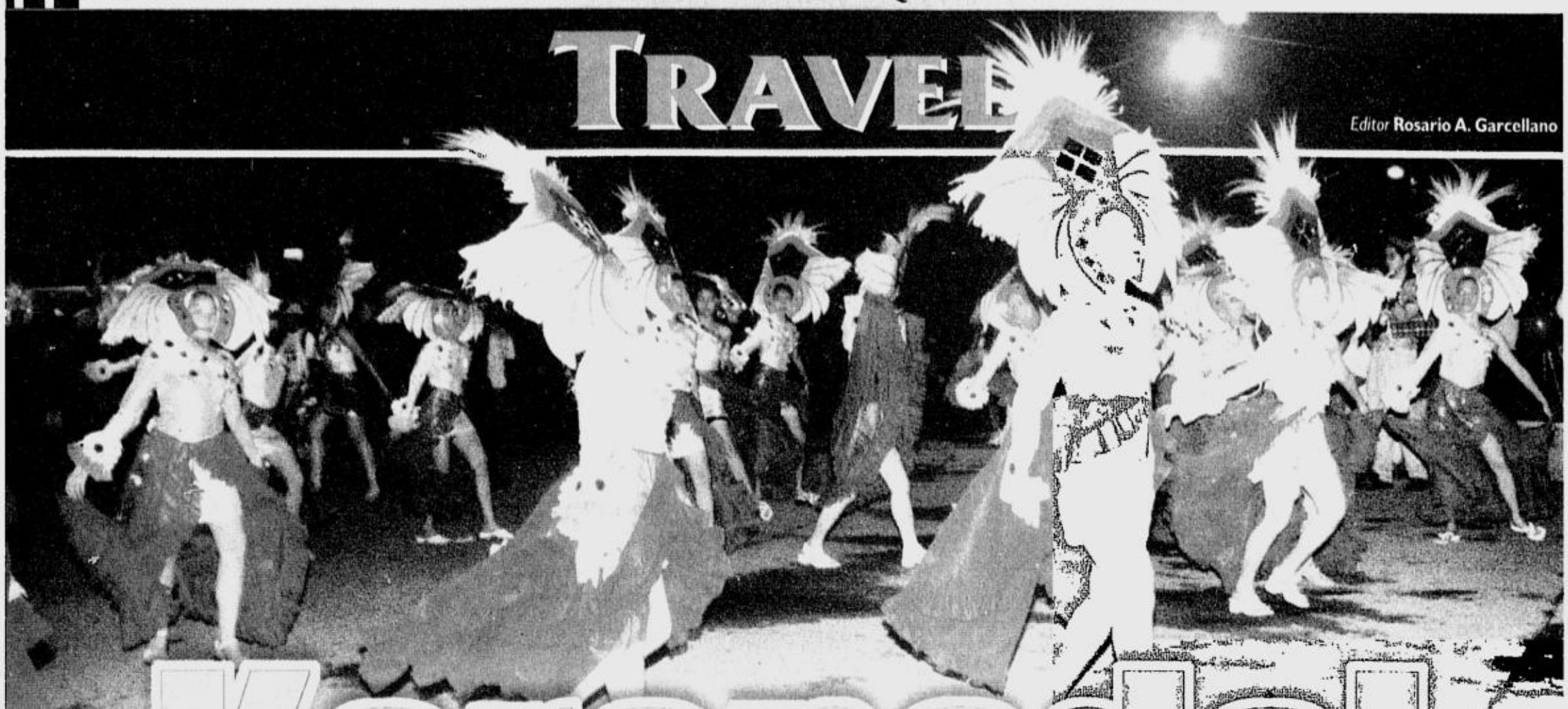
FOUNDATION/ M4

GMA Foundation's Give a Gift project has responded to the needs of some 300,000 children in the last six years



TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano



LIGHT in the darkness at the Mardi Gras

Koronadal comes alive

Text and photos by Raquel P. Gomez

FOR one peaceful night, the streets of Koronadal were alive with glitter, dance and color, complete with costumes and bamboo torches held by the students who took part in the Mardi Gras that crowned the Oct. 7-8 festivities marking the city's third charter anniversary.

The fireworks display, the hundreds of spectators dancing in the streets, indicated the city's resolve to get back to normal life after a series of bombing incidents that killed and wounded scores of people.

In July, a bomb exploded in the fish section of the Koronadal Public Market, killing three people and injuring 28 others. Two months earlier, on May 10, a bomb tore through the same market, killing nine people and wounding 40. Other bombs exploded in the city in February and March.

Whether the explosions were connected with the conflict between the government and the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, as reports say, the four bombing incidents happening in less than year earned for Koronadal (formerly Marbel) the unwelcome tag "bombing capital." As a consequence, tourism all but disappeared and a number of businesses closed shop.

Mayor Fernando Miguel admitted that the effect of the bombings on the newly declared city was enormous. He said it would take a while for the city to recover.

But everywhere, the feeling was that the city was doing something to erase such an image and to entice tourists to return.

The anniversary celebration was one of the steps undertaken by the local government to regain its once prized possession: peace.

"This celebration reflects just how peace-loving we Marbelans are. There's no way for us to go but forward," the mayor said during the culminating program held at the Freedom Park.

The festivities included a song-writing and singing competition at the Koronadal Freedom Park, a team dancing competition by the different schools in the South Cotabato Gym and Cultural Center, a morning parade of people representing the government offices, businesses and schools in Koronadal, and the Mardi Gras night parade, a colorful contest of dance and costumes with students as competitors.

Amazingly, the local folk were serious and involved in all the activities. They gathered in the streets to watch the parades, braving the hot sun. The gym was packed with cheering people and nervous contestants. The streets were filled with makeshift stores offering delicacies and fruits. Mothers were busy putting makeup on their daughters or arranging the costumes.

ALL dolled up for the parade

CRAFTS galore at the market

The atmosphere was generally busy and happy, except for some military men who patrolled the streets. There were also policemen and security men guarding the entrances and exits of the public market. "Bomb threat" signs were also posted on walls of some establishments, indicating public vigilance.

The Department of Tourism has been extending its full support to the city's tourism projects, particularly the anniversary festivities, to help the city recover.

The street parades and dancing, according to the DOT, will someday make Koronadal a destination area comparable to Bacolod and its Masskara Festival or Aklan and its Ati-atihan Festival. After all, Koronadal is just three years old as a city, and every project would henceforth be considered a pioneering event.

Koronadal's inhabitants are mostly Ilonggos, Cebuanos, Ilocanos and Tagalogs who have settled in the area since the 1940s and mixed with the B'laans, Maguindanaoans and other indigenous peoples.

The mix of cultures over the years has not resulted in a particular identity for Koronadal. The city is still in the process of discovering what product, song or dance will best represent it: Most of the wares found in the city are those made by the B'laans and T'Bolis; there are products coming from neighboring provinces as well.

Under the stewardship of Miguel, who has been mayor since 1987, Koronadal has become known for its cultural and sports activities and also as a convention site for business meetings.

For the tourists, it has a wildlife sanctuary called the El Gawel Resort, a reservation area of more than 1,000 hectares maintained by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Other nature places to go to from Koronadal are the Cadidang Cave, Siok Waterfalls, Manbucal Spring, Supon Falls, and Millennium Falls, which are found in the mountains. From Koronadal, too, one can travel to the Mount Matutum Forest Reserve, Lake Sebu and the eco-cultural reservation site of the T'Bolis.

Koronadal has a population of more than 100,000. It is 54 kilometers away from General Santos City, where the airport and seaport are located, and is the key area from which to travel to other places in Region XII. It is the center of government administration, commerce, trade, transportation, communication and education in South Cotabato.

The city had been thriving and experiencing a boom—until the bombings. In the market, stall owners can still recall details of the sad incidents.

But life goes on. And the October festivities more than proved it.

A draw for the locals

WHERE have all the tourists gone?

Russell Salvaña, operations manager of the Punta Isla Lake Resort, recalls that for a time, most of their guests were foreigners lured by the magnificence of Lake Sebu, the 365-hectare lake surrounded by mountains.

Lake Sebu, one hour away from Koronadal City, is the summer capital of the South that offers "nature activities" such as boating and trekking. Visitors get additional enjoyment from the seven falls or the T'Boli sites.

But because of the Abu Sayyaf problem and the unfavorable advisory for travelers to Mindanao, the resorts in Lake Sebu have suffered, Salvaña laments. It took a while for the resort business there to pick up again, but when it did, the locals came in droves.

"You could hardly see a blond-haired tourist here," he says.

The reason may be the low rates offered by the resorts. At the Punta Isla, one can spend the night for only P60-P75. And a boat trip for 20 persons costs P200—a veritable steal.

Indeed, business meetings or seminars can be conducted in comfort, in the naturally misty surroundings.

For the record, the statistics office in Koronadal reported only 926 foreign arrivals for the first three quarters of this year. The local tourists accounted for an amazing 43,365, most of them spending their time in conventions or seminars held in resorts such as the Punta Isla.

Raquel P. Gomez

SHELL catcher at Lake Sebu

TRAVELBRIEFS

'Roaring' prize

FILIPINA Corazon C. Sanchez has won the Singapore Tourism Board's "Roaring SurPrizes" grand prize for November: S$20,000 worth of Isetan shopping vouchers, her choice.

Sanchez won by simply participating in the "Spin & Win" game for visitors.

Roaring SurPrizes has drawn nearly 15,000 participants from 90 countries, according to STB records. Visitors need only to stop by the Roaring SurPrizes gazebo, as Sanchez did with her Filipino friend and Singaporean host from ST Engineering, to play the Spin & Win game.

Like Sanchez, they may win the prize of their choice.

For December, the grand prize winner will choose between a tour package (six days, five nights) at Rasa Sentosa and Parco Bugis Junction shopping vouchers. Both are worth S$20,000.

The Roaring SurPrizes gazebo, located between the Heeren Shopping Center and Faber House along Orchard Road, is open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Participating visitors must present a "Roaring Great Deals!" card and produce their passports for verification purposes.

For more information, call Nancy Harel & Associates Inc., PR representative of STB in Manila, at 636-0258.

Rodeo competition

THE NATIONAL Rodeo Competition will be held on Dec. 2, 3 and 4 at the Quirino Grandstand of the Rizal Park in Manila, organized by the Department of Tourism as a special event of Visit Philippines 2003 and a major component of WOW Philippines.

The competitions will include lassoing on horseback, load carrying, casting down, cattle wrestling, "carambola," cattle bareback riding, greasy pig contest and tug of war.

Prizes will be awarded for the winning entries in each competition. The overall team champion will receive P100,000; the first runner-up, P75,000; and the second runner-up, P50,000.

A grand parade of participants is scheduled at 3 p.m. on Dec. 2, followed by the opening ceremonies at 4 p.m. at the Quirino Grandstand area. The competitions will immediately follow the ceremonies.

Other activities expected to draw interest are the barn dance and country music showcase. Original Filipino music will also be featured.

Arts and crafts, rodeo paraphernalia and accessories, and a variety of foods and snacks including processed meat products will be on sale.

The cooperating agencies are the Department of Agriculture, Dr. Edwina G. Wagelie Foundation Inc., and Masbate Brahman Breeders Foundation Inc.

The participating teams are from Benguet, Bohol, Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro City, Masbate, Malabon City, North Cotabato, Nueva Ecija, and Tuguegarao City.

KL vacation

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines invites those planning a vacation to fly to Malaysia's dynamic capital, Kuala Lumpur.

The city has interesting spots that speak of Malaysia's culture and history, such as the Tugo Nagara (National Monument), the largest free-standing bronze sculpture in the world, and the old railroad station, a Moorish-inspired architecture equipped with a snack kiosk, souvenir shops and restaurants.

Then there's the central market, a haven for local artists and craftsmen, and treasure trove of unique shopping finds.

To complete the feast of the senses, there are the Batu Caves, which are carved out of limestone and which house sacred Hindu shrines.

KLM offers round-trip packages to Kuala Lumpur that include airport transfers, hotel accommodations and city tours. For details, call 840-5817 local 223.

Penshoppe made my dream come true!

Today's Life of a Mandy fan

MY SUPERCOOL superpop princess Mandy Moore arrived Monday night at 10pm on November 17. So there I was late morning next day--a Tuesday--among her legions of fans and media persons at the lobby of Makati Shangri-La, all waiting for the international celebrity. Mandy had a press conference that afternoon, so being early might actually work in my favor. Who knows, this tall 19-year-old might see me and smile, and that would have really made my day. It's totally irrefutable--Mandy is the most sensational American star that my generation has seen. And she's here ... in the flesh!

Does this mean I'm totally gaga over Mandy? You bet. I'd go anywhere and do anything to know and be the way and style of Mandy. I was thrilled that an international star like her wears our very own Penshoppe!

And so there I was, waiting into the early afternoon of Tuesday in the hotel lobby of Makati Shangri-La waiting for Mandy. Suddenly, a commotion. She was like an angel, walking, no, floating, toward us, waving to fans. She was smiling radiantly in a stylish black ensemble. I was stunned, as I realized later that she was gone and I wasn't able to get her autograph. Gathering my wits, I made sure I got to her next stop --her MTV Music Summit press conference on Wednesday, at the Makati Shangri-La's Conway's bar.

I was a bit late, and there was already a throng of Mandy fans in front of me, and I could hardly see her through the crowd. But I could hear her well, and she was truly a darling of the press as she eagerly answered all the questions thrown at her. She was so candid! She said she admired Penshoppe, and I believed her, 'coz she wore it.

"Penshoppe clothes are comfortable, casual, fun and sexy without going over the edge." Oh, I had to jot that down. Here was an American pop icon with nothing but praises for Penshoppe, and that endeared her more to me, and I'm sure to the rest of her Filipino fans as well.

That day, too, I saw Mandy mingle with the Penshoppe Club Pen: Paolo Valenciano, Khalil Kaimo, Ala Paredes, Nicole Yulo, Brad Turvey, Cogie Domingo and Vince Cañizares.

THURSDAY MORNING, I still couldn't get Mandy out of my mind. I had tickets to Mandy's concert at the Araneta Coliseum that night and I was really looking forward to it. It was awesome! Yes, Mandy's concert was AWESOME and it took my breath away. We shouted and sang along with her. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. But before watching the concert, we were able to check out Penshoppe's booths at the entrance of The Big Dome. On display were the much-acclaimed Mandy's closet where my very own idol's fashion picks from her stint with Penshoppe were there, all laid out for her fans to compare her personal style with our own. There was also a photo gallery that showed parallelisms in Mandy's growth as an artiste, and that of Penshoppe's as a fashion line. There were a lot of similarities, but this much, I can say: both Mandy and Penshoppe are definitely cool, stylish and fun!

And we saw more of Penshoppe at the concert itself. It opened with a fashion show featuring Penshoppe's Holiday 2003 collection. Directed by Joey Espino and produced by Runway productions, it featured the Penshoppe Club Pen, together with some really cute hotties from the modeling biz. I really dig the cool Penshoppe outfits especially the jackets, tees, and those accessories!

Mandy serenaded her fans with 10 of her songs. One hit after another, she endeared herself to a packed Araneta Coliseum. She gave in to her fans' requests for an encore and to our delight, sang "Cry," the soundtrack of her TV commercial with Penshoppe. After the show, Penshoppe's President and CEO, Bernie Liu, together with wife and VP for merchandising, Alice Liu graced the stage and presented Mandy with a bouquet of flowers. I wish the night had lasted forever, but pretty soon my friends and I were heading for the exits--no, running towards them, for a chance to get a glimpse of Mandy. "It lasted forever, but ended so soon..." I remember her singing. Indeed, it did.

POST CONCERT DAY, a Friday. I was still in bed relishing the experience and listening to Mandy's music over my CD player. That night, I headed on over to the MTV Music Summit at The Fort, and was once again, in awe, when she came out and rendered some songs to the crowd gathered there. An advocate of MTV's AIDS-awareness causes, I was surprised at her passion and maturity as she spoke to the crowd about it.

I've seen her, I've heard her, but there was something missing: a close encounter with her, and her autograph. My perfect opportunity awaited at Penshoppe's meet-and-greet show at the SM Megamall Cinema 3.

Earlier in the afternoon, a pre-show was held at the SM Megamall's Atrium. It was busy, busy, busy with all Mandy-related activities: Once again, I browsed through Mandy's Closet and Penshoppe's photo gallery. A makeover session of three college students was also being conducted. With the magic of supermodel-turned-makeup-artist Lala Flores, three lucky girls became Mandy for a day as they were transformed, through makeup, cool 'do's, and the same fab Penshoppe clothes that Mandy wore in her ads with Penshoppe. The Akafellaz was also there to entertain the bunch of teenagers already waiting for my pop princess. Later on, the main show at the SM Cinema 3 was shown at the Atrium via live feed.

At around 4 p.m., the main show at the SM Cinema 3 started off as the country's upcoming young divas Chedi Vergara, Roselle Nava and Nina opened it by singing a string of Mandy's hits. They sang against a background of Mandy's videos, and their looks showed Mandy's ever-changing look from her teenybopper days when she did "Crush", a slightly more serious look in "I Wanna Be With You", and her current glam look in "Have a Little Faith In Me" all styled, of course, in Penshoppe. The girls were followed by a fashion show directed by Joey Espino and featuring Cogie Domingo and the rest of the Penshoppe Club Pen in the sporty, fashion, and Oriental collections of Penshoppe's Holiday 2003 products.

And then it was time to meet Mandy! Some lucky fans got to ask her some questions, and when one girl asked her what kind of clothes she likes to wear, she was quick to include Penshoppe in her repertoire by saying, "Much like how you guys are dressed. Just like jeans and T-shirts, right? Whatever Penshoppe has!" So now, I'm a Penshoppe fan, as much as I am a Mandy Moore diehard.

So I weaved myself through the crowd and inched myself nearer to her. I couldn't believe it, but I was there with my copy of her new album, "Coverage" and Mandy was looking right at me! With a big smile, she asked me what my name was, and for a second I forgot. She was so nice and natural. The thrill never left me as Mandy expressed her gratitude and "thank you's" for the warm welcome she had received from her Filipino fans. She said she hoped to come back someday and declared to the cheering crowd "Penshoppe rocks." Yeah Mandy, you and Penshoppe rock!

PENSHOPPE
my stuff. my stop.

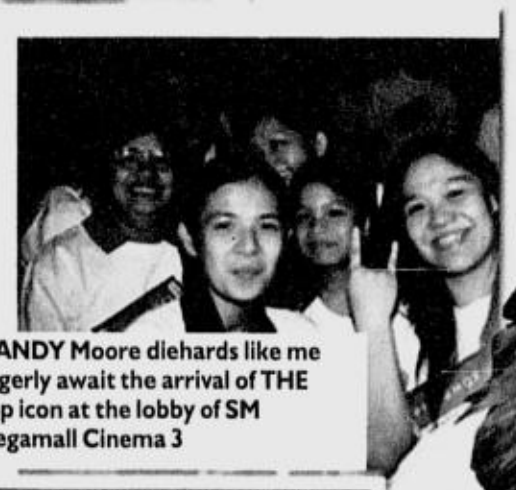
A NICE and warm Mandy at Penshoppe's SM Megamall Show

SM Megamall Atrium packed with fans

THE PENSHOPPE Club Pen strut their stuff in Penshoppe's Holiday 2003 collection during the fashion show at the SM Megamall Cinema 3.

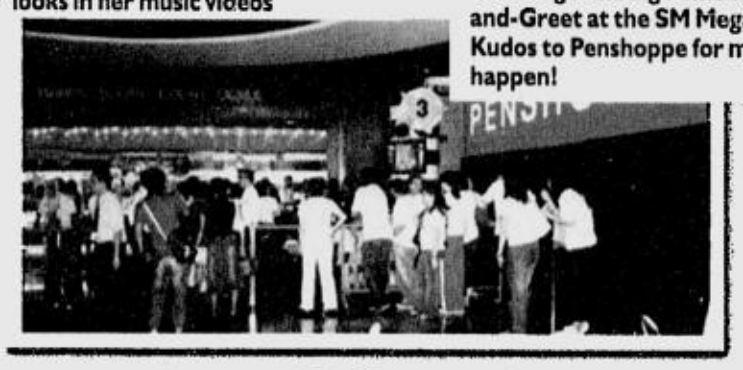
MANDY'S Closet on display at the SM Megamall Atrium.

THE MAGIC moment! Fans like me get up-close-and-personal as Mandy autographed copies of her newest album, 'Coverage' during Penshoppe's Meet-and-Greet at the SM Megamall Cinema 3. Kudos to Penshoppe for making it all happen!

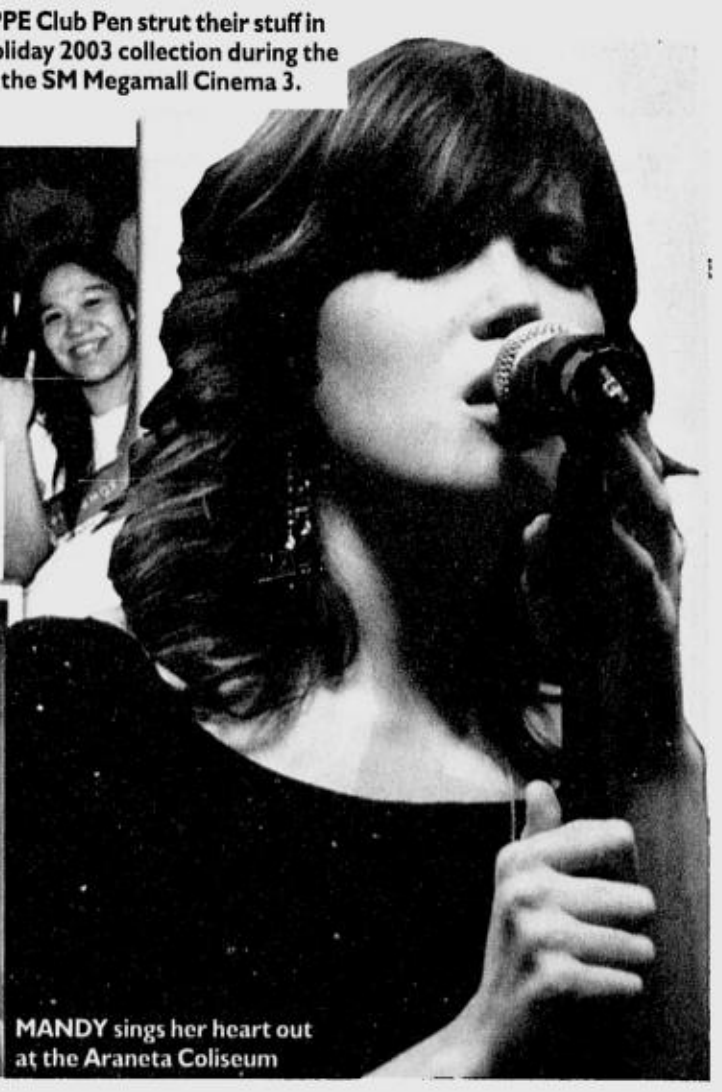


MANDY Moore diehards like me eagerly await the arrival of THE pop icon at the lobby of SM Megamall Cinema 3

LOCAL divas Roselle Nava, Nina, and Chedi Vergara, with styling inspired from Mandy's different looks in her music videos



Penshoppe's top guns Bernie Liu (President & CEO) and Alice Liu (VP for Merchandising) present their very own Penshoppe Girl with a bouquet of flowers at the Araneta Coliseum.

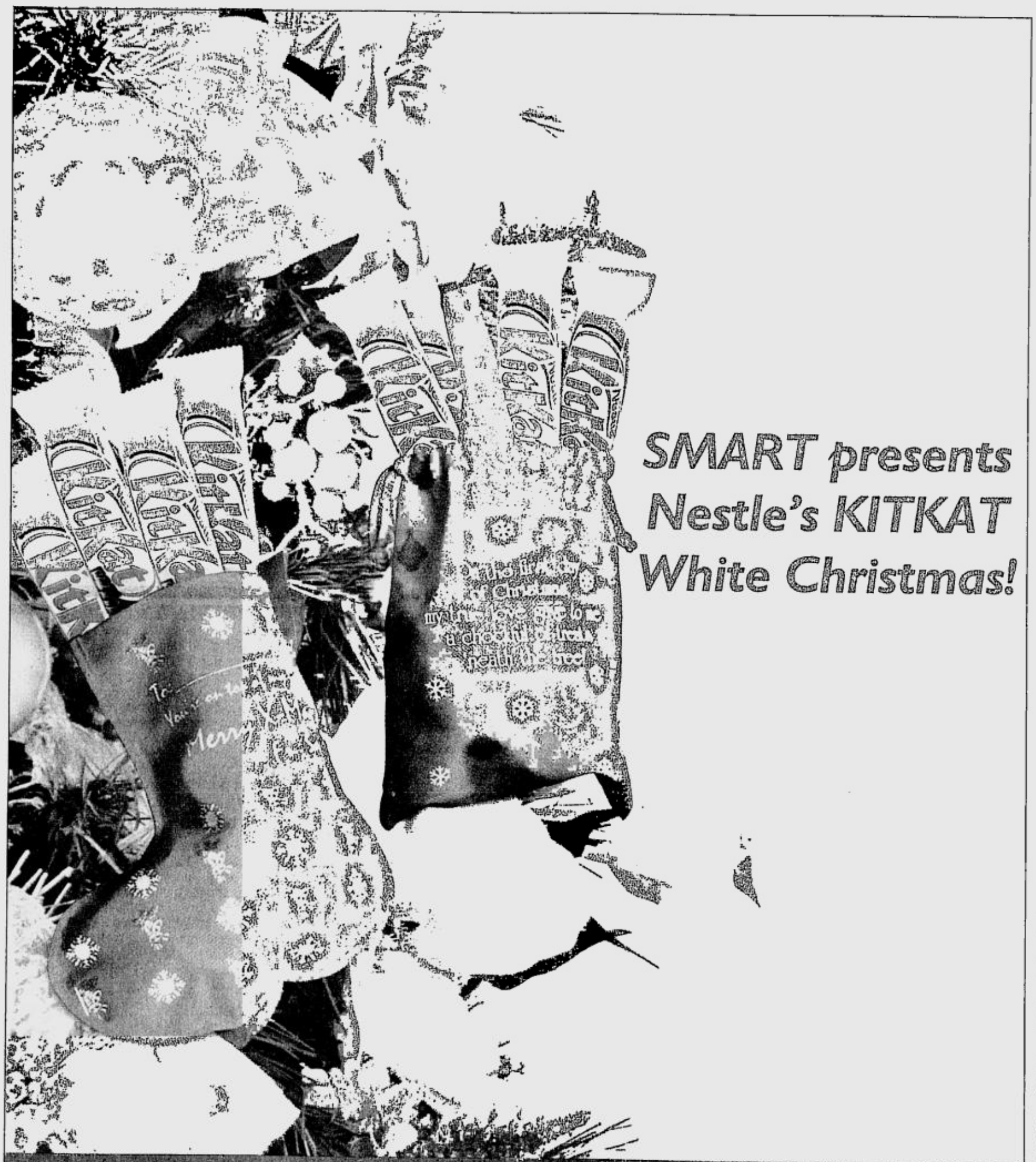


MANDY sings her heart out at the Araneta Coliseum

THE PROJECT aims to lend a helping hand to poor children in conflict-riven areas.

GMA Kapuso Foundation's project team

Foundation hears kids' silent plea for help



From page M1

tion (DOTC), Department of Social Welfare and Development, Go Tong Foundation, JobsDB.com, Jollibee Foods Corp., Kidsports, Inc., Mossimo, National Federation of Egg Producers of the Phils., Noel Bazaar, Ocean Adventure, Paref Northfield School for Boys; Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company and its employees, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. (Shellane), RRJ, Superbowl (Big Buddha Restaurant Inc.), Tabang Mindanaw, Unang Hirit, UP Pi Sigma Delta Sorority, Uratex Phils., WG&A Superferry, Youth Aid.

Benefactors can sponsor a gift package which will, for example, provide a full course of chemotheraphy for cancer-stricken kids; Noche Buena for child laborers, children in conflict areas and in Antique, Siquijor and Dueñas, Iloilo; and 120 feeding days for children with severe malnutrition.

Aside from cash donations, funds were raised through other initiatives. The Ever Gotesco Malls pledged P500,000 through its ongoing promo "Gifts for a Cause: Save a Child from Cancer."

The GMA New Media Inc. is encouraging support through text messaging. A percentage of every download of Give a Gift logo, which costs P15, will go to the foundation.

In addition to a donation of P120,000, Pacific Internet has come up with a special promo—for every purchase of its E-volve card, P1 will go to the foundation.

Enchanted Kingdom has given free tickets and free rides to foundation beneficiaries, particularly cancer-stricken kids.

Singer-actress Jolina Magdangal handed over the first 10-day sales of her Jolina's Fashion Gallery (Gotesco Commonwealth branch) to the foundation. She also joined the kids during road shows held at Gotesco malls.

Various restaurants also donated portions of their sales.

Beyond gift-giving

Since 1998, the foundation has gone beyond simple gift-giving. Tiangco said it had become an established partner of different non-government and government organizations in providing for the needs of indigent children.

The foundation project team is composed of professionals, volunteers, social workers and GMA employees.

Mel Tiangco said the signing of the certificate of partnership created a special bond between benefactors and beneficiaries.

"These children didn't have to open their hungry mouths and say what they wanted: Help," said Tiangco.

"We provide medical assistance for children with congenital defects. With cancer patients, we give them chemotherapy packages," she added.

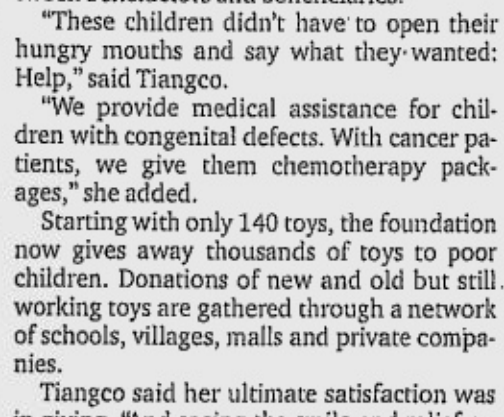
Starting with only 140 toys, the foundation now gives away thousands of toys to poor children. Donations of new and old but still working toys are gathered through a network of schools, villages, malls and private companies.

Tiangco said her ultimate satisfaction was in giving. "And seeing the smile and relief on the children's faces [after a successful operation] is really fulfilling," she added.

"GMA Kapuso Foundation has been a partner for public service, partner for showing love to others, and it is, indeed, a social responsibility," said Tiangco.

Gifts and donations to needy children may be sent to GMA Kapuso Foundation, GMA Network Center, EDSA corner Timog Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, or call 928-7021.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph



JOLINA hands over the first 10-day sales earnings of her eponymous fashion gallery to foundation COO Mel Tiangco.

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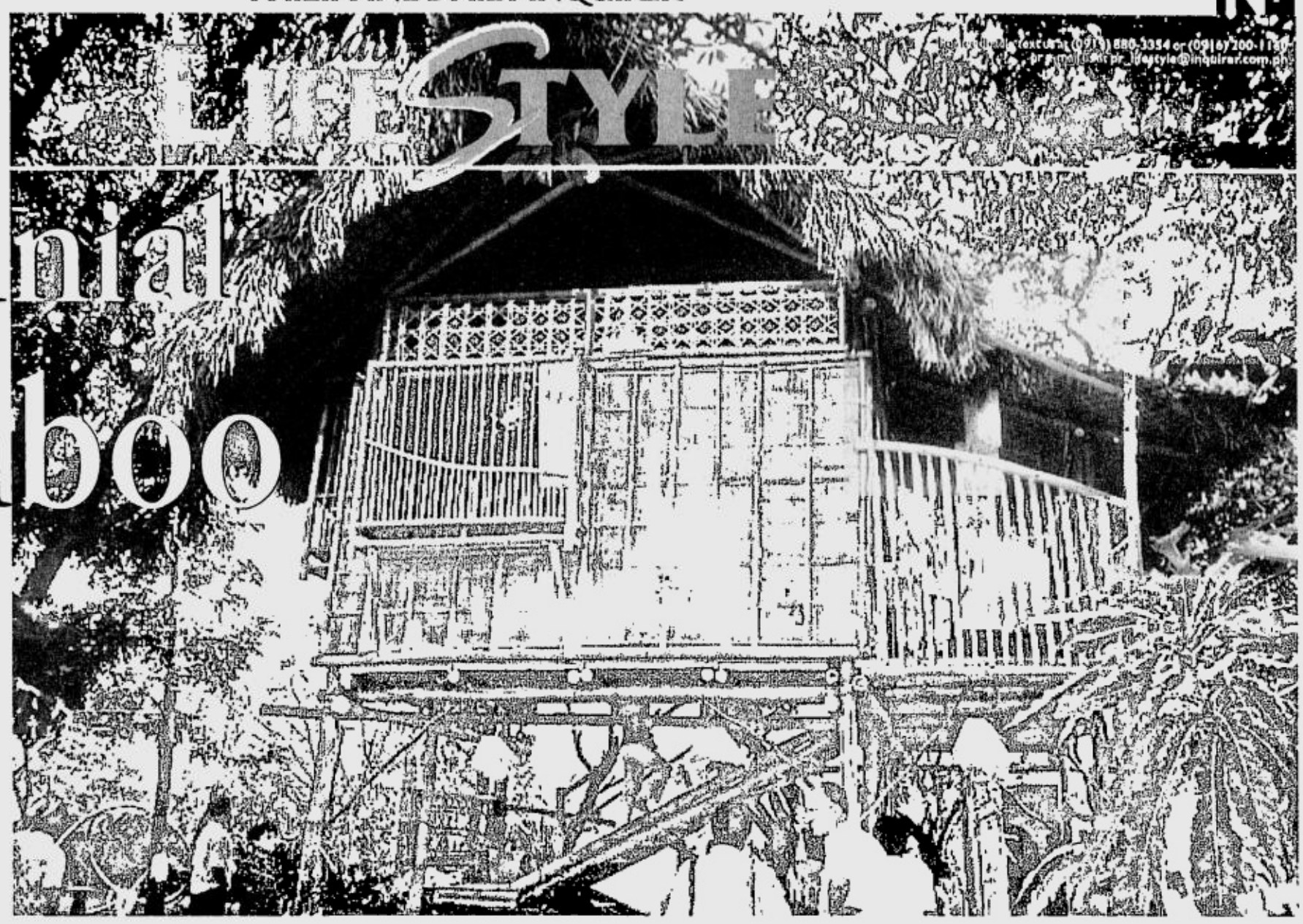


SIDE view of Ning Encarnacion-Tan's pre-fab *bahay kubo*, which can be knocked down for transport and set up anywhere

Perennial as the bamboo

Text by Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor
Photos by Mol Fernando and Ning Encarnacion

NO one, not even the Big Bad Wolf, can huff, puff and blow this house down. To architect Ning Encarnacion-Tan's mind, it's about time that Filipinos are disabused of the thought that bamboo is a light and inferior building material.

The American colonizers are to blame for sending out early in the century bulletins disparaging the bamboo. The misinformation found its way in books. But when Ning combed bibliographies and toured the country while doing research for Gilda Cordero Fernando's "Folk Architecture," she learned a lot about the bamboo's strength and versatility from authors like Francis Lambrech and Maurice Vanoverbergh.

"Bamboo can compete with most of our lumber," she said.

In time she would build her own bamboo house, not a playtime *bahay kubo*, in Del Monte, Quezon City, where she and husband Juju lived for 11 years.

It taught her that she did not need much energy. She was able to dispense with television, not missing it a bit.

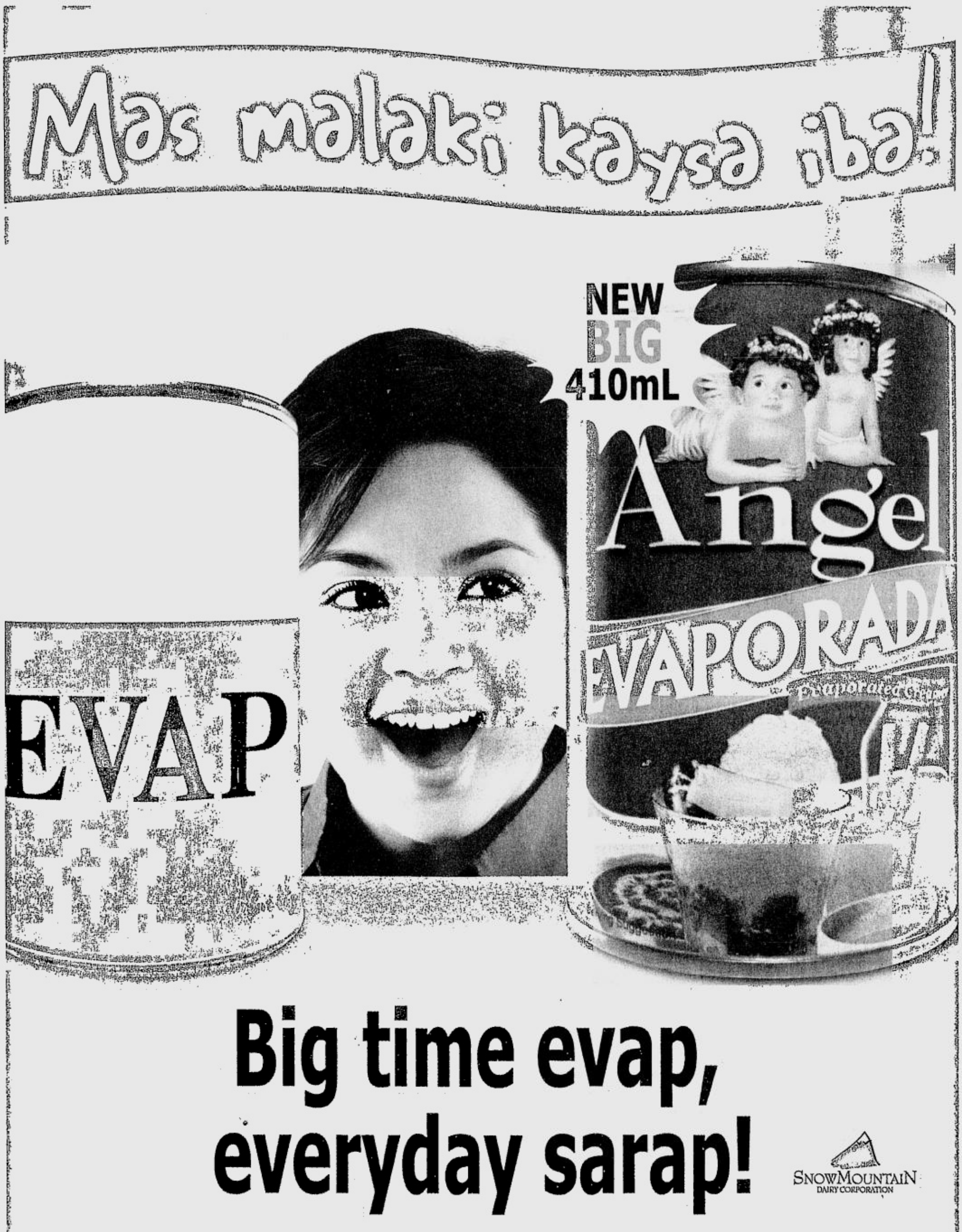
A longtime Zen meditation practitioner, Ning said, "If you want to simplify your life, bamboo is a good medium to work with. You see things that you don't need anymore. You say to yourself, 'This is good, this is enough.' The material transforms your attitude. A lot of air enters the house. If you're into a more spiritual, less materialistic bend, bamboo is it."

Then the Tan couple found themselves talking about leaving Metro Manila. Juju, who had finished his term as head of the Foundation for the Philippine Environment, still nurtured a vision and mission of working with communities directly involved in environmental activities. He was shifting from nongovernment organization work to people's organization work.

From a choice of areas that they like—Mindanao, Palawan, Zambales, Panay and Nueva Vizcaya—they found circumstances leading them to the last province, which has a reforestation program in full blast.

What clinched the decision was the invitation of St. Mary's University (SMU) president Fr. Jess Hechanova for Ning to be the first coordinator of the Center for Vernacular Architecture and Building Technology. Overcoming initial resistance from some faculty members, she is now "as good as the

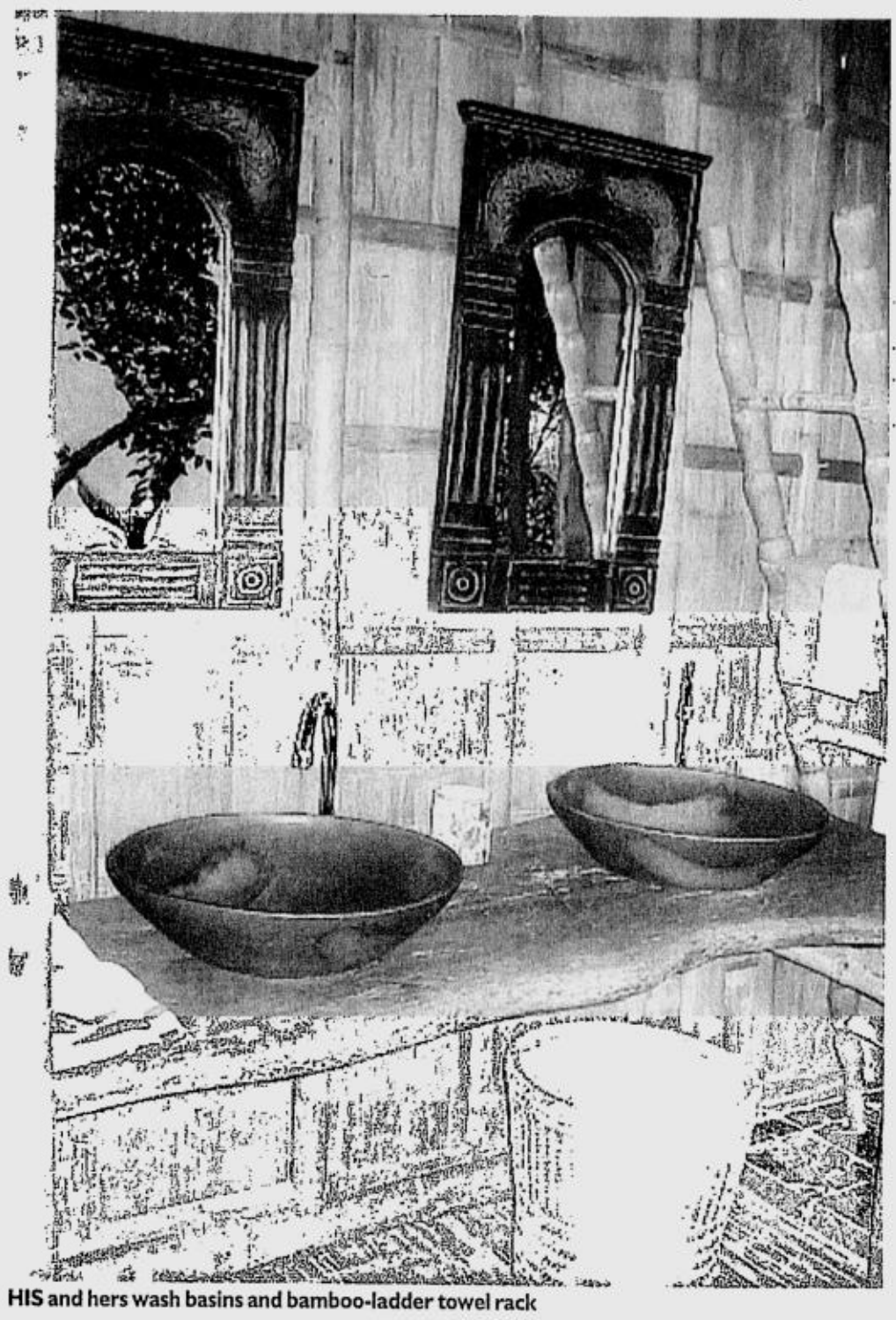
PERENNIAL/ N2



PHILIPPINE DAILY IN
Sunday LIFE

BAMBOO house can have all the modern conveniences—jacuzzi, john, wash basins, faucets. Note futuristic bamboo-and-paper lamp on the ceiling.

The exhibit shows how this miracle grass can be modular and can have the strength of steel



HIS and hers wash basins and bamboo-ladder towel rack

Perennial as the bamboo

From page N1

grants I can get for the Center."

It is not a coincidence that SMU's metaphor, not just symbol (the way the parrot is to the University of the Philippines or the eagle to the Ateneo), is the bamboo.

Education center

The Tans sold their bamboo house to Juju's brother Jake, who turned it into a healing place and a venue for seminars. In June last year, they settled in Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, which Ning described as "like an old town, a northern version of Dumaguete with plenty of universities. More than 50 percent of SMU students are scholars of some sort. Those of full indigenous blood are entitled to scholarships. They plant the grounds and harvest food. They're up at 4 a.m. cleaning the grounds. They excel after they graduate because they have a knowledge of how hard life is. So they make it."

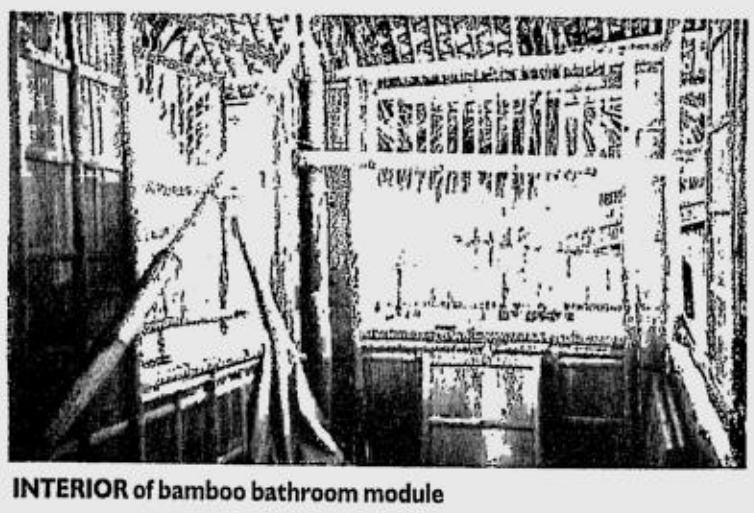
The Tans are now stewards of 28.8 hectares of land. There the *kaingin* (slash-and-burn) method of farming has been drastically reduced and eradicated.

The planting of diverse endemic species, some of them valuable medicinal herbs, restores the fertility of the soil. Lesser known trees and plants are getting recognized for their potential as housing materials.

Ning found their relocation a blessing. "It's delicious—that's the only word I can think of—to design outside the city. Everything is quiet after 8 p.m."

She had time to mull over how to respond to the challenge hurled by Dr. Joven Cuanang, owner of Pintô Art Gallery, for her to develop another bamboo house and exhibit it in his premises. She bargained for two years, but he was confident she could do it in one.

BANGGERA **or native dish shelf dries dinnerware and glassware in the open air.**



INTERIOR of bamboo bathroom module

ANAHAW **roof panels not yet woven together**

She said, "The thinking process took a year. It was hard. I gave five times the effort that I would put in a project on this, sorting out how to make it modular and worrying what if it falls."

Wendy Fernando-Regalado, her collaborator in the exhibit and in past Stariray Christmas bazaars and who has been working with bamboo for her lamps for the past three years, assured her, "The fact that it's defined sizes, limited in sizes, makes the house manageable."

Ning realized bamboo could reach "the highest structural level, which is modular. This is ridding ourselves of layers and layers of miseducation."

She showed through her bamboo modules how easy it is to incorporate them to an existing house or to actually make up the house itself. The modules can be moved around, depending on the owner's wish or need.

Ning sought out chemical engineer Joel Ajero to give the proper structural foundation to the house and render artistic bracings. Artisans Rudy Encinares and Bert Gallano, who have been at her side on other bamboo projects, were part of the team that saw the house go up in just two weeks.

Steel's strength

The trick was to prevent the bamboo from rotting by putting sealants and waterproofing it. With these additives, bamboo then assumes what Ning described as "the tensile strength of steel and the compressive strength of concrete."

WENDY Fernando-Regalado's paper and bamboo tent doubles as a lamp to illuminate the garden.

Juju said, "Bamboo is not a material for everything. What we want to show is it can work and be combined with glass, concrete, steel, wood."

Ning is sure that people emerging from the house will utter not "Let's get her for our architect" but "I can do that!"

Wendy, also an architect, furnished the modules on exhibit with whimsical lamps made from bamboo branches and handmade paper.

When the bamboo in her yard was being cut, there were "oodles of branches" that were going to be thrown away. She saved them instead and discovered that when the thin branches were tied together, they formed a strong mesh.

Having made freeform shelves of bamboo and paper for a maker of handmade cards, she next ventured into candle covers that protect the light from the wind produced by electric fans. Wasabi Bistro next asked her to execute Japanese—and modern—looking lamps.

That spurred her on to do other shapes like the *pañuelo, sarimanok,* pig, harvest basket, umbrella, ancestral house, a hanger with a clothlike strip of paper, even a gazebo for two. The last, installed on the gallery's lawn, is constructed with *katcha* and bamboo branches. It functions as a big lamp that one can get into. Cool!

"The Bamboo Advantage" runs until Jan. 25, 2004, at the Pintô Art Gallery, No. 1 Sierra Madre, Grand Heights, Antipolo City. For more information, call 6971015.

Country's first one-stop shopping mall celebrates 19 years

HARRISON Plaza, the first one-stop shopping mall in the Philippines, celebrated its 19th anniversary recently at the HP Garden Square.

The event began with a Mass concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Nick Blanquisco, Rev. Fr. Constantino Conti and Rev. Fr. Sanny de Claro, and with the participation of the Our Lady of Assumption Parish Choir.

After the welcome address of HP senior vice president Irene Martel-Francisco, the Christmas promo called "Harrison Plaza/Coca-Cola Christmas Midnight Millionaires" was launched with the annual Christmas tree-lighting ceremony.

The promo, sponsored by Coca-Cola, ends Jan. 5, 2004.

To join this promo, all you need to do is buy a meal with any Coca-Cola drink at the Harrison Plaza Food Court. You will get a pop-up card which will give you a chance to join the raffle and win P1 million in cash or P1 million worth of Globe prepaid call and text cards.

HP mall manager Cesar Olegario opened the launch and tree-lighting ceremony (emceed by Manly Marquez and Grace Mancenido), then introduced the guest of honor, councilor Miles Roces of the third district of Manila, who led the tree lighting with wife, Maile Atienza-Roces, and children Johia, Akio and Jared.

They were assisted by Mr. and Ms Salvador Clemente (representing Mr. and Ms Antonio Martel Jr.) of Belco Marketing Inc., Irene Martel-Francisco, and Nicollo Caluag, Coca-Cola area sales manager.

After the launch and tree-lighting ceremony, awards were given out to the Tenant of the Year and Employee of the Year for 2003.

Outstanding tenant was Rita Optical, with runners-up Manels Leathergoods and Bench also getting commendations.

The Employee of the Year award was given to Romeo Sevilla, Tourist Trade and Travel Corporation (TT&TC) Accountant. TT&TC's senior accounting clerk, Priscilla Paredes, electrical engineer, Geraldino Licudine and junior accounting clerk Gina Bartolome were first, second and third runners-up, respectively.

Also present at the event were Manila councilor and Ms Mitch Cuna and children, councilor Boy Isip, councilor Kim Atienza's lovely wife Fely, Nanding and Mayette Garcia, US Embassy's Don Sanders, Jun and Nene Leonor, Danny and Lilia Henson Cruz, Mon and Portia Santos with children Paula and Gabe, Ding and Irma Lovina, Cora and Abet Ticzon, Julius and Vincent Ticzon, Remedios Gonzales, Tess Baniqued, HP staff member Norma Cruz, Offie Pacheco, Oscar Atendido, Mutya Mercado, Mads Domingo, Greg Romero and HP tenants and representatives.

KAREN Uy (second from right) represented Ernest Chuachiaco of Rita Optical, which was named Tenant of the Year of HP. With Ms Uy are Danny Bonifacio, Irene M. Francisco and Cesar Olegario.

COUNCILOR Miles Roces and wife Maile with children Jared, Johia and Akio (center), joined by (from left) Nicollo S. Caluag of Coca-Cola; Irene M. Francisco, SVP of TTTC; Ophelia Clemente and Salvador Clemente (representing Antonio Jr. and Belen Martel, EVP and president of TTTC, respectively)

NEW
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Water Shine 3D
Jelly-like 3D Lipcolor.
Jelly Clear base bounces light off lips to create a watery shine
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Josie is wearing Water Shine 3D shade no. 10A

Terrazas de Punta Fuego Treats their Buyers to a Latin Dance Party

Nightlife at Terrazas de Punta Fuego

Prospective buyers of Terrazas de Punta Fuego will have to pack their dancing shoes when they descend on the newly opened beach club for the party, *Baila! en las Terrazas*, on December 6, 2003.

Landco Pacific promises an afternoon of dancing and activities for the whole family. With the Latin sounds of the Puro Ritmo band, guests can ease into the rhythmic routine of the salsa, cha-cha, and mambo with the help of the Baila dancers and instructors. For the dance-shy, they will be pampered with a relaxing massage and footbath in one of the boardwalk's cabanas while the kids will be entertained with art activities like caricatures and bead making. The active ones can swim in the cooling waters of Balayan Bay and in the free form infinity pool or kayak around the coves that dot the Terrazas coastline. The sun worshippers can sunbathe while soaking in one of five individual bubblers, lounge around the pool area or on the beach which is Batangas' finest white sand beach. The uninhibited can show off their singing skills in the KTV room or engage in a game of pool and darts in the game hall.

FilBarcelo, the management company of Club Punta Fuego, will lay out a tapas buffet for the hungry dancers while Diageo will quench the thirst of the revellers. This party will also mark the launch of **Resort Living**, Punta Fuego's magazine for club members that will feature the different, exciting facets of the exclusive Punta Fuego lifestyle.

Terrazas de Punta Fuego is developed by Landco Pacific Corporation in partnership with Roxaco Land Corporation.

For more information on *Baila! en las Terrazas*, please call Judith Aquino at 809-7316 or 0918-9363855.

This party will also mark the launch of ***Resort Living****, Punta Fuego's magazine for club members that will feature the different, exciting facets of the exclusive Punta Fuego lifestyle.*

The Pools at Terrazas Beach Club

Pawikan turtles at the poolside add a touch of fun

All the great chefs will agree that white clams cook best on white sand.

Have a taste of the good life at the newly opened Beach Club.

TERRAZAS de PUNTA FUEGO

Limited seaside properties along the brightest white sands in Batangas.
Call 809-7316 or e-mail puntafuego@landcopacific.com.

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ADVT

THE UNILEVER family photo

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or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

UNILEVER top executives go wild. Howard Belton, Geoffrey Probert and Neil Munn whoop it up in my home, where they get to dress up like—who else?—me.

Taking the wrong pill and loving it

WOULD you take the blue pill or the red one? After watching the movie trilogy, I am even more confused about "The Matrix." But lately, I think I have been taking the wrong pill because on three separate occasions, I have chosen to work instead of party.

I can't believe I missed the two events of Gucci, its store opening at Greenbelt 4 and the formal dinner in honor of Gucci chair and CEO **Domenico de Sole** and his wife, **Eleanor.** Clearly, the latter was a party perfectly suited for me, where there were only selected guests in an elegant setup at the Peninsula Manila ballroom.

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

My husband **Dennis,** who was still recovering from his champagne hangover at the Louis Vuitton party just a few days before, represented me at the dinner. He told me that every other guest that he spoke to asked where I was. Even my sister **Sandy Romualdez** and her husband, **Philip,** who rarely attend socials, were there.

The reason I was not present was because of my hosting duties. The global brand directors of Axe and Rexona, both under the Unilever flagship, were in the country for their third annual meeting. I was tapped by **Trina Genuino,** regional assistant brand manager for Asia Deodorants (wow, that's a mouthful for a company position), to host these executives from North and Latin America, Asia, Europe, etc. for two evenings.

A sister of a good friend, Trina thought I would be an excellent host to this cutting-edge group of individuals.

How does one entertain a group that has literally seen it all? They've been to world-class events, they've overseen product launches with Hollywood-size budgets, they've got the capability to check off "been there, done that" the moment they see what one has in store for them. Oh well, so what, I took the red pill and accepted the challenge.

Intramuros challenge

To introduce the Unilever team to the Pinoy heritage and culture, what better way than for them to experience riding a jeepney, *kalesa* and tricycle and then dance the Tinikling and Pandanggo sa Ilaw and then eat *balut, dinuguan, kamaron* (fried crickets), and if that's not enough, put in a spirit of competition by having all this in an adventure race format around Intramuros.

Doesn't all that beat the usual dinner and variety show? It was quite a sight to see the Axe and Rexona brand managers running around the Walled City, all competing for prizes courtesy of Firma in Malate.

Of course, as with all TV shows, I have to state the line, "Don't try this at home." At least not without experts to assist! Global Resource Creative Exchange, a very thorough events company, made sure all areas were secure and safe, with guards and back-up medical assistants all over. They sourced everything, from the *kalesas* and dancers down to the *balut* and

TAKING/2

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FLASHY makeovers for Europe brand directors Jim Caroll and Steve Miles

FUNNY man Rex Navarrette

STILL a millionaire in looks and talent. Christopher de Leon

ILEO managing director Ichay Bulaong

JAMES Dean and his girls. Dean Aragon (Asia brand director) with Trina Genuino, Chiara Dimacali and Jonah de Lumen

WINE lovers Joel Ferrer and Bina Reyes

JEWELRY
Wynn Wyn

PARTNERS and expectant parents Jojo and Fides Madrid

PREMIUM
Jalandoni a

Taking the wrong pill . . .

From page 1

dinuguan, which was so much fun to explain to the Unilever folks that it is pig's blood stew. As a vegetarian, even if I was paid to eat that, I would bail out.

Little niceties included a team of photographers all over, so that photos could be shown after the race during the dinner in Fidel. **Markus Schmidt** concocted a delicious menu of Moroccan cuisine. I think the Unilever team all needed a beer when they got back from the race, exhausted but happy.

For the Rexona Winning Moment award, the photo of an executive eating a *balut* (yes, the whole chick and not just the nice yellow part) won because of the graphic rendition of the chick and the distorted facial expression (of the executive, not the chick).

Funky deadringers

For Unilever Night Two, I decided on something more relaxed, a private dinner at my home, but with funky makeovers.

For Axe Night, we hired genius stylist Noel and the creative team of Emphasis Salon, **Victor Ortega** and **Edgar,** to transform the guests into little versions of... me.

Even Unilever chair **Howard Belton** gamely donned a pink wig and feathers.

Most of the fun clothes were on loan from Rustan's and my fave party buddy, **Tim Yap.** He was also my judge for Best Makeover together with another fave, **Rajo Laurel.** Rajo's clothes took the hip level dressing further.

Kidlat, an "improv" performance group led by **David Esteban,** eventually got everyone in stitches. After a superb dinner catered by **Margarita Fores,** the Kidlat group got most of the guests into role-playing and stand-up comedy. With all my wigs moving around the house, Dennis had a hard time locating me when he arrived from the Gucci dinner.

Although I unfortunately missed the Gucci event, I was so glad to host these foreigners

SMC executive Glenn Glinoga with fun wife Jane

TIPTOEING during the tinikling dance

A CORPORATE exec gets his first *kalesa* ride.

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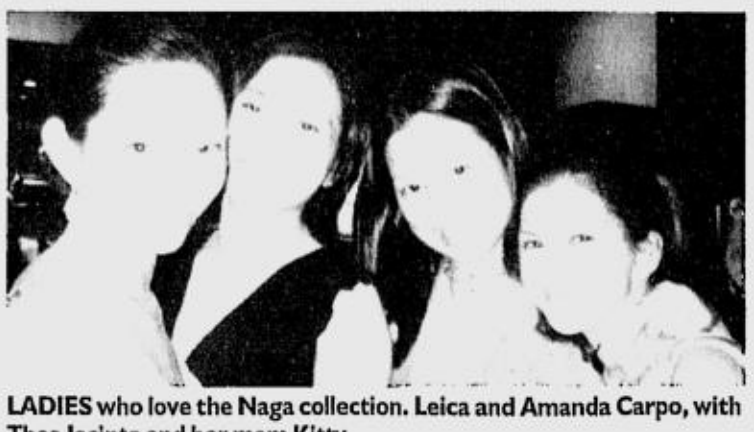
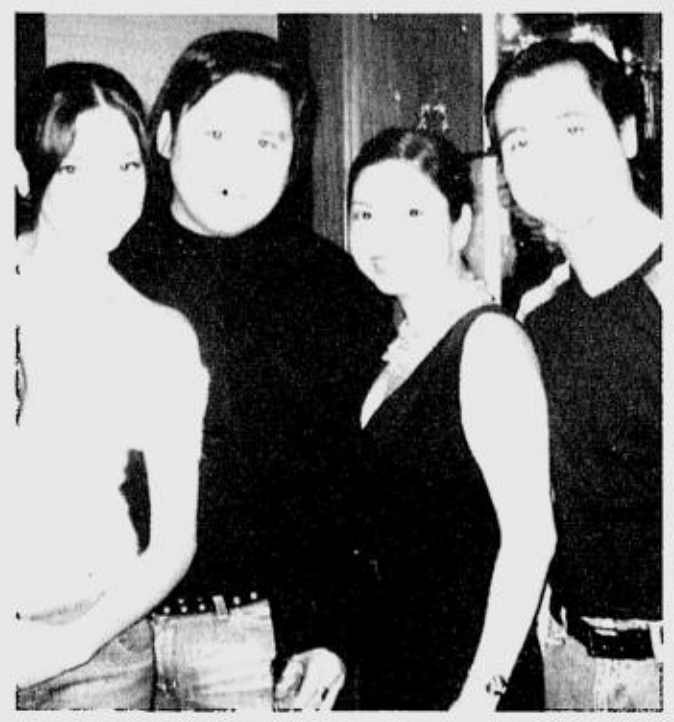
lesigner par excellence
n Ong with a fan



LADIES who love the Naga collection. Leica and Amanda Carpo, with Thea Jacinto and her mom Kitty



BEAUTIFUL guests at Firma Makati. Wynn Wynn with Amanda Griffin, Rajo Laurel and Anton Barretto

FRIENDS with exquisite taste. Tats Manahan, Firma Makati's Ricky Toledo and Chito Vijandre

Wine Exchange top guy Jeri
nd happy wife Lulie

GOOD-LOOKING couple Fred and Kerri Uytengsu with talented designer Anton Mendoza

and give a lasting impression on Filipino hospitality, but with a twist. Certainly if the Unilever gents get to sit beside Mr. De Sole on their flight out of Manila and compare notes, there they will see the continuum of possibilities when it comes to Filipino hospitality!

Addled in Ad Congress

Another event I missed was the Metropolitan Museum Terno Ball in honor of **Joe Salazar,** this century's design guru. Seeing all the beautiful *ternos* in the papers even depressed me more. I would have come wearing four *ternos* by different designers, with accessory changes, too. I felt like Cinderella unable to go to the ball. Not because I didn't have a gown but because I didn't have a carriage (more like a helicopter) to take me to the party.

I missed the Met Ball because I was in Baguio for the Ad Congress, where I was a presentor in the Araw Awards and hosted the INQUIRER lunch event.

At the INQUIRER lunch, which featured funny man **Rex Navarrette,** I teamed up with INQUIRER Super's Tim Yap. This year, INQUIRER's raffle was high-tech, utilizing an SMS electronic raffle powered by Inq7. For both events, design master Rajo made my unbelievable outfits.

For the first night, it was a gigantic, ruffled yellow and gold gown, like a super nova, and for the INQUIRER lunch, a coquettish and feathery denim jacket with crystal butterflies.

So, since I was stuck there, we decided to party like the rest of these crazy, wild advertising folks. There were also a lot of show-biz personalities around, and the TV networks were giving away loads of cash and cars. Even Smart had many parties and featured **Martin Nievera** in an open city concert.

I was just happy to do my bit in terms of stimulating the Baguio economy and hit the marketplace, buying up a storm. From blankets, silver trinkets, wood carvings, to *ube*, strawberries and peanut brittle, I hired three grade-school sherpas to carry my goodies. I got three because they seemed too small to carry even a kilo of strawberries. There were just so many people in the market, I am sure the local Igorots all needed a break and headed down to Manila the following weekend.

Baguio has never been so bustling and alive. Shoemart Baguio timed its opening with the Ad Congress, creating major traffic on Session Road.

This was another event I was unable to get to, so good ol' hubby Dennis went again. He reported back that SM Baguio has a unique design, featuring a tent-like roof that acts like a beacon when lit up in the evening, visible for miles around.

He also noted that it was just great to see the **Sy** family continuing to invest in the country, and they in fact opened another SM in Marilao, Bulacan, this week!

Typical of Dennis, he had no news on what anyone wore to the event.

Gems and wines

I couldn't make it to that affair because I was still in Manila for the launch of the most beautiful collection of **Wynn Wynn Ong**'s Naga jewelry at Firma Makati. Her works are like masterpieces and are so well-crafted. All one-of-a-kind, they are the ones that make a statement whenever worn and will never get stuck in the safe with the rest of the boring jewelry.

From there, we proceeded to another launch of divine spirits. Premium Wine Exchange held a wine-tasting at Mandarin Hotel to introduce the Californian wine they will be bringing in soon. I thought I was gate-crashing the event until I saw **Eric Recto,** one of the partners. Eric reminded me that he even sent a hand-written invite. He told me that they would soon open a retail shop maybe in The Fort area. I didn't really get the whole message because I noted one of the partners was the to-die-for ultimate triathlete, **Fred Uytengsu.**

From missing store openings to dinners, I also missed out on the Tabu fashion show at the NBC Tent because I was the emcee at the Beacon School Auction. Fellow HSBC Red Card girl **Amanda Griffin** had invited me to check out her latest collection featuring some models flown in but, once again, I had to heed the call of duty over party.

What a week indeed! I wish there were a "Matrix" pill that could let me be in several places at the same time just like Mr. Smith! With all the parties, launches and events that are happening in the country, I wonder how many more there would be if the economy were to improve! So many parties, so little time.

Email me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

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New high-end community breaks ground

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE HIGH-END Pristina North development project will be launched this December by Aboitiz Land. But friends in media got a preview of what it's going to be like at a lively briefing held in the Jazmine Room of the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort.

Giving the pertinent information were CEO **Roberto Aboitiz**, COO **Andoni Aboitiz** and VP for marketing **Gladys Ceniza**.

Assisting them were pretty staffers like **Cecille Anog**, **Ma. Chona Tiu**, **Elena Carnicer**, **Grace Tortor**, **Jane Reynes** and **Debra Jane Magallon**.

This residential-commercial community will rise on a 40-hectare tract of land in Talamban, Cebu City. It follows the precepts of New Urbanism, a worldwide architectural movement that combines the best of the past with the convenience of modern amenities.

Bobby and Andoni emphasized it would be a place where cars would have their rightful roles, as luxuries rather than necessities. This is so because Pristina North is designed as a walk-friendly place, with the farthest distance from any given point a mere 400 m.

Roads and sidewalks will thus be wide and conducive to walking. Lot areas will range from 300 to 800 sq m, with affordable payment plans to be offered.

Following the briefing, there was a lauriat lunch at the Shang Palace, where Cebu's press members got to ask more questions about the development.

Well, after stories on Pristina North appeared in the local press, the Aboitiz Land phones have been ringing incessantly.

The days of wine and cheese

Cebu's Cheese and Wine Club celebrated its fifth anniversary with a Spanish-theme party in Sol y Luna at the Ayala Entertainment Center. President **Dondi Joseph** and his lovely French wife, **Corinne**, were the perfect hosts.

They chose excellent Spanish wines and specified which dishes would be served on the buffet. There were cheese from La Mancha, of course, plus bacalao, paella negra, jamon serrano, tortillas and angulas, this time not imported from Spain but sourced from nearby Dipolog in northern Mindanao.

A Latin combo played all night, and swaying ever so gracefully to any tune they played was **Grace Lerma**. At the height of the fun, Marriott's general manager **Karl Hudson** joined the merry throng. With him was Brazilian Ambassador **Claudio Lyra**, **Paulo Pereiro Pinto**, **Becky Garcia** and **Mayen Carmona**.

Next event for Cebu's Cheese and Wine Club will be a dinner at Lucy's, the French restaurant at The Village, another Ayala enclave, to introduce Beaujolais Noveau.

AT THE PRISTINA North preview, with Bobby Aboitiz, Gladys Ceniza and Andoni Aboitiz

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Aussie foodfest at Shang

Australian Ambassador **Ruth Pearce** was back in Cebu. One reason was the launch of a week-long food festival at the Shangri-La. Ms Pearce cut the ceremonial ribbon, assisted by the resort's general manager **Desmond Hatton** and Lapulapu City Vice Mayor **Norma Patalinghug**, whose family used to own the extensive property where the Shangri-La is located.

"To think that we also called the place Shangri-La," mused Norma.

At that time, several decades ago, the place was quite inaccessible, but already idyllic, since Norma and her husband, the late mayor of Lapulapu City, had planted numerous trees.

"Many of them are still here," she said, gazing from the terrace balustrade.

Simon Beaumont, an Australian chef, prepared quite an array of delicious specialties, including kangaroo and emu fillets.

Pham-Lim nuptials

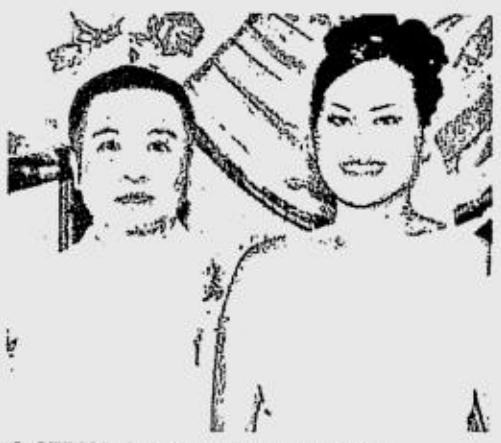
Leah Lim and Vietnamese businessman **Quan Pham** were recently married at the St. Pancratius Church in Lakewood, California. Leah's parents, **Paul** and **Lily Lim**, were former Cebu residents who now make their home in Long Beach, California.

Leah graduated summa cum laude in electronic communications. She was very happy that her godmother, **Melba Leonardia Tan**, flew all the way from Cebu to attend the wedding.

Melba is back with wonderful stories on how beautiful the church ceremony was, and also the reception held in the Sequoia Center of Buena Park.

JUDY Aboitiz, Sachiyo Corners, Rose Hennesy, Sandra Pesch and Corinne Joseph at the Cebu Cheese and Wine Club anniversary

AUSTRALIAN Ambassador Ruth Pearce and Lapulapu City Vice Mayor Norma Patalinghug



A CEBUANO wedding in Lakewood, California, for Quan Pham and Leah Lim

MELBA Tan and Lily Lim

PAUL Lim

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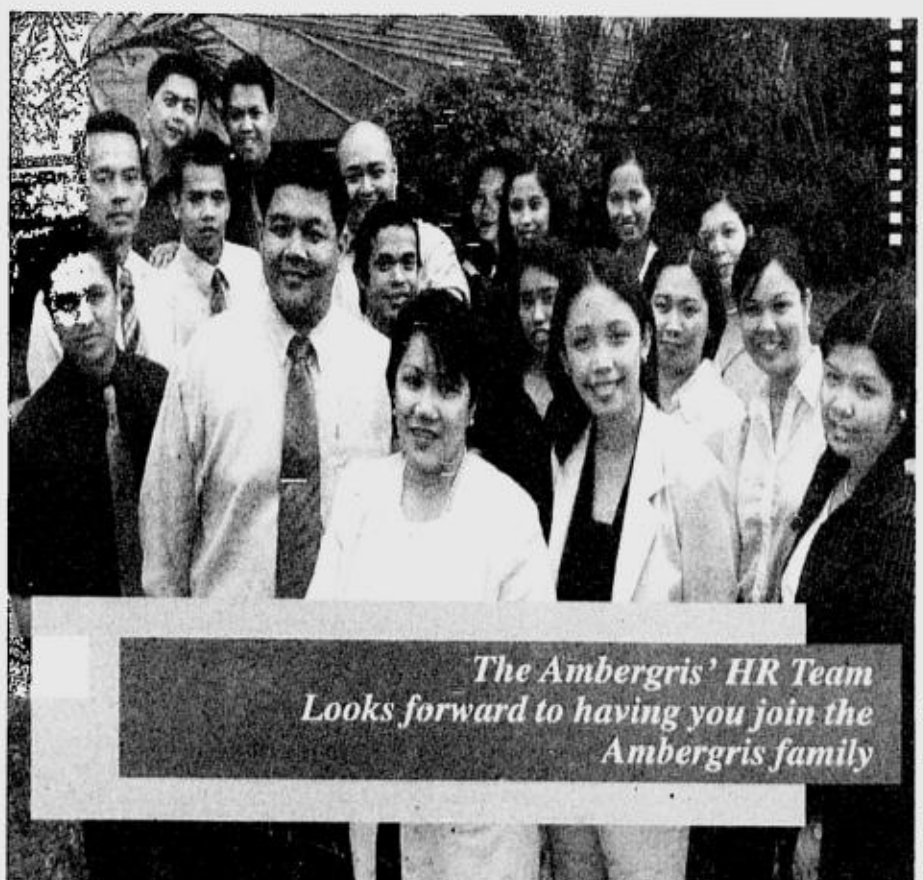

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- ✓ Experience working in a high volume, inbound contact center environment locally or abroad.
- ✓ Strong knowledge of PC hardware.

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- ✓ Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in a call center, managing an account with sales targets and deliverables for 150 agents.
- ✓ Exposed to client-relationship management.
- ✓ Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- ✓ Experience working in a high volume, inbound contact center environment locally or abroad.
- ✓ Proven and demonstrable knowledge of PC hardware, networking and technical trouble shooting.

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- ✓ Coordinate new hire process with training, recruiting and center management to maintain committed head count.
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- ✓ Provide center with accurate reporting and analysis on a regular basis.
- ✓ Competencies include but not limited to: Business Mastery, Strategic Planning, Report Analysis, Forecasting, Project Management, Organizational Leadership, Relationship Management, Multi-tasking exercises.
- ✓ Experience working in a high volume, inbound contact center environment locally or abroad.
- ✓ Familiarity with Blue Pumpkin software is an advantage.
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This person who will hold this post is primarily accountable for establishing and maintaining a sound operational system that is based on client needs. Continuous improvement should be implemented in order to effectively maximize customer satisfaction, revenue, and maintain competitive edge.
- Previous Product and Client responsibility, with a minimum of one year experience in a Call Center environment
- Excellent written and verbal English communication skills
- Experience in working with people on different levels, with proven excellent customer service skills
- Experience in negotiation and diplomacy
- Experience in budgeting and adept in analyzing statistical information

Account Manager
Reporting to the Senior Account Manager, this person will be the key client contact. He/She will be responsible for developing and maintaining partnership with the client to amplify business and increase customer satisfaction. The Account Manager shall also prepare, implement, maintain and review existing client projects.
- Candidate must have one year experience in the Call Center industry
- Previous product and client responsibility
- Proficient with Microsoft applications
- Excellent customer service skills

Technical Support Engineer
- Graduates of Computer Science and Computer Engineering preferred but not a requirement
- Strong working knowledge of the internet
- Excellent English communication skills
- Willing to work on a shifting schedule
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- Candidate must possess a degree in Accounting, Business, Commerce, Management Information System or any computer-related courses
- At least one year work experience gained from a Customer Service or Technical Support environment
- Knowledge in business and accounting software, a definite plus.
- Highly intelligent and adaptable to situations.
- Very good communication skills.
- Willing to work on a night shift.

Trainer
- Experience in writing documents for a variety of audiences
- Very good presentation skills
- Must know how to develop training materials
- Must be assertive, a team player and keen on details
- Willing to work on a shifting schedule

Account Supervisor
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Strong command in oral and written English communication skills
- Excellent business writing skills
- Analytical, detail-oriented and with strong customer service background

Team Leader
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Proficient with Microsoft applications
- Excellent written and verbal English communication skills

Training and Quality Manager
- Has excellent written and verbal English communication skills
- Has at least one year Training and Management experience
- Experienced in negotiating and diplomacy
- Proficient in spreadsheet applications and word processing softwares

Quality Assurance Supervisor
- Excellent written and verbal English communication skills.
- Minimum of 2 years of leadership experience through project Lead facilitation.
- Proven analytical and creative thinking abilities

Quality Assurance Staff
- Very good written and verbal English communication skills.
- Must possess organizational, planning and delegating skills
- Must be a college degree holder of any related course.

Training Supervisor
- College graduate of any course
- With supervisory experience in people development, training operations and quality management
- Has experience in Training Needs Analysis and Training Performance Development
- Firm decision making skills, highly objective and has the ability to manage various organizational demands into a cohesive and strategic plan of action
- Must be assertive, a team player and keen on details
- Excellent written and verbal English communication skills.
- Effective presentation and business writing skills
- Highly organized, analytical and results-oriented
- Willing to work on shifting schedules and extended hours

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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (Cagayan de Oro)
Able to negotiate the appropriate rates
Able to solicit referrals that can lead into possible sales generating account
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Maintain existing customers and address specific concerns
Expand support from existing customer by getting new business/trade
Develop and generate new business from new accounts
Do market studies and identify/know activities of competitor
Develop good contacts among exporters and importers

Requirements:
Graduate of a 4-yr course preferably in Business Administration or Management
Minimum of 2 years sales and marketing experience preferably from Freight forwarding or Logistics Company
Excellent interpersonal relations, good follow-thru, persistent patient, above average negotiation skills, has strong drive to meet aggressive sales target, with self-confidence and pleasing personality, good coordination skills, excellent customer service skills, above average oral and written communication skills.

AREA HR SPECIALIST (Davao)
With Competencies on the following areas:
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Organizational design and review
Strategic partnering
Process Management
Change Management
Performance Management
Competency Development
Training
Sourcing, Selection, Hiring, Integration
Benefits administration, Compensation and Payroll Administration

Requirements:
Familiar with (shared service) business structure for Human Resources
Preferably with Masters Degree
Minimum of 4 years HR experience (at least 3 years as generalist and 1 year as specialist)
Preferably has handled accounts/clients (consulting set-up)

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR (General Santos)
Will be greatly involve in managing and planning resources
Task will also involve the following:
Operations Planning and Management
Operations and Feedback Analysis
Financial Analysis
Management of external relations

Requirements:
Graduate of any four-year course
4-5 years experience in Terminal Operations (both Pier & Container Yard)
Good communication skills & public relations
Willing to work long & odd hours, and can work under pressure
Preferably male and not more than 30 years old
For Cagayan de Oro Branch & General Santos Branch

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE (Cebu)
Will be involve in the following:
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Customer Interaction and Relationship
Product Knowledge and System Application Usage
Selling
Account Management

Requirements:
Graduate of any four-year course
Female, preferably single

DAT TELLER (Butuan & Iligan Branch)
Preferably with working knowledge on freight business process/policies and application
Knowledge on cargo documentation process/policies and application
Knowledge on Tariff policies and application
Has Systems usage knowledge and application

Requirements:
College graduate
Former DAT-TELLER Outgoing from previous branch or agency
Male or Female, not more than 35 years old

Qualified applicants are required to submit an application letter, resumé, transcript of records, recent 2x2 ID photo to:

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- Willing to travel within Luzon and Mindanao areas
- High interpersonal skills and team player
- Strong personal values

HR Administration Officer (HRAO)
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of Behavioral Science from a reputable university
- Knowledgeable in benefits administration, recruitment and employee relations
- With experience in training and development and policy making, willing to travel within Luzon and Mindanao areas
- High interpersonal skills, a team player and strong personal values

Accounting Associate (AA)
- Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of Accountancy, CPA is an advantage
- Adept in doing and interpreting financial statement and branch administration
- With advanced branch to branch and branch to head office accounting background
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon and Mindanao areas (areas to be covered are Batangas, Cavite, Quezon, Bicol Region, Kidapawan, Caraga Region, Gensan & Davao)
- High interpersonal skills, a team leader and strong personal values

Program Assistants (PA)
- Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
- Graduate of Business Administration or Social Science from reputable university
- Willing to do field work and be assigned anywhere in Luzon and Mindanao areas (areas to be covered are Batangas, Cavite, Quezon, Bicol Region, Kidapawan, Caraga Region, Gensan & Davao)
- High interpersonal skills, a team player and strong personal values

Executive Secretary (ES)
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- With good command of oral and written English language
- Minimum of 3 years relative experience, well adept in coordination/logistical functions
- Proficient in windows application (word, excel, powerpoint, internet, email)
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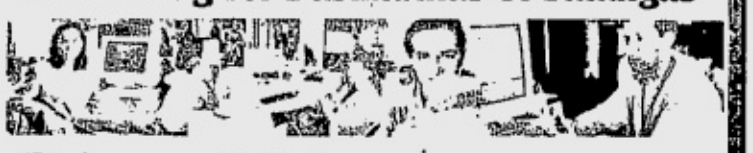

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The candidates must be goal and result oriented and must be able to adapt to the corporate culture that values teamwork, excellence, quality and productivity.

Applicants are required to submit or e-mail their application letter, comprehensive resumé with recent photo.

Highly competitive compensation package awaits successful candidates!

Kindly indicate **JOB CODE** in the first page of your resumé.

CORPORATE HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
3F HBC Corporate Centre
548 Mindanao Ave., cor. Quirino Highway, Quezon City
Mail to: Mr. Mike B. Mapua (Human Resources Officer)
E-mail: mbmapua@splashcorp.com

Your application will be held in strictest confidence.
We will respond to qualified applicants only.

FILIPINAS EYE CENTER FOUNDATION, INC. (FECFI) ANNOUNCES THE 2004-2005 SUB SPECIALTY FELLOWSHIP TRAINING IN SPAIN FOR FILIPINO OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

FECFI, the implementor of a US$7.0 million "Construction and Creation of a National Eye Referral Center" cooperation (CCNERC) project between the governments of Spain through the Agencia Española Cooperacion International (AECI) and the Philippines through the University of the Philippines–Philippine General Hospital (UP-PGH), **invites Filipino Ophthalmologists to apply online at www.becasmae.es or write at e-mail addresses: fecfi.training@i-manila.com.ph and filipinas.eye.center@aeci.org.ph from now until December 21, 2004.**

WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO APPLY?
Any Filipino ophthalmologist residing in the Philippines; preferably not over 40 years old; have a good knowledge of the Spanish Language; obtained an acceptance letter from his/her chosen University in Spain and has a personal objective of serving the underserved and willing to be deployed to any priority regions (identified by the DOH) for at least two (2) years for every year of scholarship grant is qualified to apply for this scholarship.

Selected applicants will be contacted for validation and additional information. (*Thus, it is wise to prepare pertinent credentials and documents ahead. See www.becasmae.es for the list*).

ABOUT THE COOPERATION PROJECT.
CCNERC's main goal is to help achieve the National Program of the Department of Health's Vision 20-20 "The right to Sight" - **to lower the prevalence of blindness in the Philippines** to 0.5% or lower by the year 2020. Three (3) vital components were integrated by FECFI to ensure the success of this project. These are: 1) **Construction** of a Referral Eye Center in the PGH Compound, 2) Installation of a Complete **Equipment** in the said Eye Center and 3) **Training** of Filipino ophthalmologists.

STATUS OF THE PROJECT.
All components are **currently underway. A 5-storey eye center named Sentro Oftalmologico Jose Rizal (SOJR) is now being constructed** inside the PGH compound. At the same time, **procurement of modern ohthalmological equipment** for installation at the SOJR is also being prepared while the **selection of candidates** for the fellowship training of Filipino ophthalmologists is **now being launched.**

SOJR is estimated to be operational by the 3rd quarter of 2004 and it is expected to improve the ophthalmic services in the country with its top-of-the-line facilities. Public services will be catered to the underserved members of society while private services will also be offered to eventually attain a self sustain operation status.

The project is being implemented by FECFI through its 9-member board of trustees in their ex-officio capacity composed of: (UP-*Manila (**UPM**), UP College of Medicine (**UPCM**), Philippine General Hospital (**PGH**), Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (**DOVS-UP-PGH**), Department of Health (**DOH**) Philippine Academy of Ophthalmology (**PAO**), Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (**EyeBank**), **Embassy of Spain** and Agencia Española de Cooperacion International (**AECI**)).*

OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY AECI.
AECI is also giving other scholarship grants to Filipinos. You may surf at www.becasmae.es for details. All application is done through on-line.

The Century Park Hotel

is inviting qualified applicants for the position of

Banquet Coordinator

For the Food and Beverage (Banquet Section)

- Female, not more than 34 years old
- College graduate preferably in Marketing, Business Management or Hotel and Restaurant Management
- At least four- (4) years related work experience
- Personable, charming and aggressive
- Written and verbal facility is a must
- Personable and aggressive with good salesmanship
- Service-oriented, keen attention to fine details
- Able to work under pressure
- Knowledge of food and beverage, proper service techniques, etiquette of entertaining small and large groups and function room decoration ability is a must

Guest Service Agent

Rooms Division (Front Office)

- Male, not more than 25 years old
- At least 5'8" tall
- College graduate preferably Bachelor of Science in Hotel & Restaurant Management
- Proficiency in oral and written English communication is a must (Chinese language would be an advantage)
- Charming, neat and personable
- Ability to use Fidelio system is an advantage
- Ability to relate with different people

Qualified candidates are invited to submit their resumes with a recent 2 x 2 colored photo and relevant certificates at:

599 P. Ocampo Sr. Street, Malate, Manila
or P.O. Box 117, CPO, Manila

47-YEAR OLD COMPANY

NEEDS

AGGRESSIVE, HARDWORKING MEN AND WOMEN as

MEMBERSHIP CLUB MANAGER
Experienced In Managing Restaurant / Bar / Entertainment Club facilities

MARKETING ASSOCIATES / PROVINCIAL MANAGERS
Experience not required but pre-need sales experience preferred. SALARY plus BONUSES.

TELEMARKETERS
Experience in membership club / privilege card sales

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES MUST BE WILLING TO ACCEPT PROVINCIAL & FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS IN HONGKONG, ITALY, US & JAPAN, ETC.

Submit resumé and 2" x 2" photo
Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2003
10 a.m. – 12 nn
Business Center, Lobby
MANILA PENINSULA HOTEL
Ayala Ave., Makati City
Look for Jojo / Joan

A & P MECHANICS

Bell Jetranger 206B11, Hughes 500C/D

Vacancies may be becoming available in early to mid 2004

A&P Mechanic Applicants must have extensive experience in all facets of helicopter maintenance, including component overhauls. Experience in overhaul shops an advantage.

Aircraft Electrician/Avionics/Instrument Technician Rewiring/harness work, trouble shooting and installation of radios, instruments and electronics essential. Practical experience in bench work and repair of radios and instruments desirable

Aircraft Airframe Sheet Metal Worker. Must have extensive experience in rebuilds, jig work, re-skinning, corrosion control and painting / refurbishing to a high standard.

12 months min. term. Single Accommodation.
Married accommodation may be available subject to conditions.
Applications with full details of experience e-mail address if available, salary sought, names and contact details of referees, and copies of all certificates and trade documents not later than December 15 to:

Director of Maintenance
c/o Box No. KA-011-03JM
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F, Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Sales Secretary

Not more than 30 years old
Preferably Pangasinan residents
To be assigned in Binalonan, Pangasinan

Apply at:

Whistler Steel Roofing
Sampaguita Pictures Compound
#27 Granada Street, Quezon City
724-6554; 724-6524

SHINKAWA LTD.

Philippine Representative Office

Manufacturer of Semiconductor Equipment

Is in urgent need of:

TWO (2) SERVICE ENGINEERS

- male, not more than 25 years old
- graduate of Electrical/Electronics Engineering course
- preferably with experience in diebond/wirebond semiconductor machines
- good oral and written communication skills
- with good moral character
- preferably residing in Baguio City
- to be assigned in Baguio City

Please send resumé at:
Unit 304 The Sycamore Building
Alabang-Zapote Road
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
or
email at: a-castano@shinkawa.com.ph

(Deadline for submission of application and comprehensive resumé is on Wednesday, December 10, 2003)

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HAIRDRESSING
DIFFUSION TONI&GUY

Be among the next batch of trainees to study in London and get the chance to meet the Mascolos . . .

Essensuals Toni&Guy Manila opens its door to:

Stylists
Salon Assistants
Nail Technicians
Front Desk Personnel

Qualifications:

- **Between 19 - 35 years old**
- **Has good command of the English language**
- **At least college level from a reputable school**
- **Must be hardworking, trainable, willing to work on weekends and holidays**

Send/submit your resume with photo to G/F 6750 Retail Arcade, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Walk-in applicants will be accommodated every Mondays thru Wednesdays only.

Venture for Fund Raising, a Manila-based non-profit organization that is a leader in providing technical assistance on fund raising to other non-profits in the Philippines and around Asia, is in search of 2 new team members.

Manager for Communications and Development, Senior Level

Reports to the Executive Director

Responsibilities:

- Design and implement the overall communications strategy for the organization, and as required write press releases, articles, and develop marketing communication materials
- Develop and implement an individual and corporate philanthropic fund raising strategy
- Provide executive staff support for the board of trustees

We are inviting application from candidates with the following profile:

- Has an appreciation of the non-profit sector and believes in the goals of Venture for Fund Raising (www.venture-asia.org)
- Intelligent and dynamic, with a strong sense of commitment and team spirit.
- Results oriented and attentive to detail
- Has excellent written and oral communication skills
- Has excellent organizational and project management skills
- At least 3 years successful work experience in related fields – corporate communications, marketing communications, public relations, advertising, fund raising
- BS / MS in related fields
- Fund raising experience, event management and html/web site updating skills are preferable.

Manager for Consulting Services, Senior Level

Reports to the Director for Programs

Responsibilities:

- Identify, cultivate and develop relationships with potential fund raising consulting clients
- Develop consulting proposals that correctly diagnose client needs and recommend appropriate interventions
- Implement consulting projects-provide excellent project management and customer service
- Contribute actively to the organization's knowledge management efforts

We are inviting application from candidates with the following profile:

- Has an appreciation of the non-profit sector and believes in the goals of Venture for Fund Raising (www.venture-asia.org)
- Intelligent and dynamic, with a strong sense of commitment and team spirit.
- Customer oriented and with strong interpersonal skills
- Results oriented and attentive to detail
- Has excellent written and oral communication skills
- Has excellent organization and project management skills
- At least 3 years successful work experience in related fields – consulting, corporate planning, account management, marketing, business development
- BS / MS in related fields

Please send a Letter of Application, together with your comprehensive resumé (include sample of work if relevant) and a recent photograph to: The Director for Operations, Venture for Fund Raising, 2801 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center 1605, Pasig City (or by e-mail to rica@venture-asia.org). Deadline for applications is on December 3, 2003.

We are a leading provider of value-adding supply chain solutions. The Fast Logistics is engaged in physical distribution and related services nationwide with Head Office in Cebu. Our extensive network and scope of operation is unparalleled.

We are inviting top caliber professionals to fill in the following key positions:

HR MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Male – 30 to 40 years old
- BS Psychology graduate
- With at least two (2) years extensive experience in Human Resource Management & Development
- Must have thorough knowledge of labor laws; government regulations & compliance requirement
- Preferably with experience in conducting trainings/seminars on sales & personnel management
- Proficient in both oral & written communication (English & Visayan Dialect)
- Can handle pressure arising from work loads
- Must be very systematic & attuned to daily reporting & updating
- Hardworking, resourceful, aggressive, assertive with pleasing personality & excellent interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to travel around the branches

BRANCH HR SPECIALISTS

Qualifications:

- Male or Female – not more than 30 years old
- BS Psychology graduate or any 4 year business or engineering courses
- With experience in personnel management and/or training
- Proficient in both oral & written communication (English & Visayan Dialect)
- Can handle pressure arising from work loads
- Must be very systematic & attuned to daily reporting & updating
- Aggressive, assertive, dynamic, with pleasing personality & excellent interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to travel around the branches
- Willing to accept branch assignment

ACCOUNTANTS

Qualifications:

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with above average scholastic records
- Male not more than 24 years old
- With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- With background in Distribution Business is an advantage
- Willing to accept branch assignment
- Team-player, goal-oriented and able to work well under pressure
- Knowledge in Microsoft applications, an advantage
- Highly analytical, systematic, can work with minimal supervision

BRANCH MANAGER/SALES MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Preferably Male – between 26 to 40 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year Business Course
- With at least two (2) years experience in sales & marketing
- With experience in overseeing all aspects in sales operation & sales administration
- Background in Distribution Business is an advantage
- Proficient in both oral & written communication (English & Visayan Dialect)
- Can handle pressure arising from work loads
- Must be very systematic & familiar with regular reporting & updating
- Hardworking, resourceful, aggressive, assertive with pleasing personality & excellent interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to travel around the branches
- Willing to accept branch assignment

SALES SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

- Male – 26 to 40 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year Business Course
- With at least one (1) year experience in sales & marketing
- Can handle pressure arising from work loads
- Must be very organized and accustomed with regular reporting & updating
- Hardworking, resourceful, aggressive, dynamic with pleasing personality & excellent interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to accept branch assignment

Interested applicants should address & submit their application letter, comprehensive resumé with 2x2 colored picture, & a photocopy of TOR during application to:

The HR DEPARTMENT
FAST LOGISTICS GROUP
3rd Floor Mitsubishi Bldg., National Highway, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tel. No. (032) 343-7888
or e-mail to: dmabella@fastgroup.biz

We will give you the chance to be the best SAP CONSULTANT in the Region!

If you:

- **belong to the top 10% of your batch in UP / ADMU / DLSU / MIT / UST**
- **graduated with BS in ComEng, ComSci, IE,MEM, ChE, CE, ME, BAA**
- **computer tools-savvy, i.e., ms excel**
- ***for those who have extensive business experience in the fields of Supply Chain Management and Corporate Planning, you are welcome to join in and have a crack at the lucrative IT Applications Consulting career!***

Hand-carry your CV and Transcript of Records to Ms. Ellen Muscat, Corp. Recruitment Head, Ramcar Center, 80 Roces Ave., Q.C., or email to: ebmuscat@motolite.com

Deadline of filing: Dec. 05, 2003

IMMEDIATELY HIRING

For Our Last Quarter Expansion

Apply At
Suite 808 8th Flr. Phil. AXA Life Centre
(Formerly PS Bank Tower)
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Makati City
(Beside Makati Post Office)

WE NEED

- COLLEGE GRADUATE of at least 4-year course from reputable schools and universities
- Energetic men and women of at least 20 years old and above
- Individuals who have a good command of English or Chinese Language
- With or Without work experience
- Willing to undergo comprehensive training

WE OFFER

- ABOVE AVERAGE STARTING INCOME OF P18,000.00
- Incentives and other benefits
- Excellent career path
- TRAINING PROGRAMS to enhance and ensure one's Personal and Professional Growth
- Travel Opportunities (here and abroad)

Come in PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE AND PLEASE BRING TWO (2) PASSPORT-SIZED PICTURES, complete resumé and valid ID on Monday and Tuesday (December 1 and 2, 2003) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Environmental consulting firm seeking professional to work in U.S. government-funded program. Qualifications: urban environmental management experience and skills in solid/toxic/hazardous waste and air quality management. Send resumé to P.O. Box 1262, Makati City.

A Digital Post-Production Studio
Involved in Film/Broadcast Graphics is currently in need of:

Digital Compositing Artist

- Preferably Fine Arts graduate
- Must be knowledgeable in the following software programs: Adobe Products (After Effects, Photoshop, Illustrator), Corel and others.
- Must be creative
- With 1 year experience
- Can work under extreme pressure during extended hours
- Can deal with all types of people

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumés, portfolio or demo reel to: Monomer Bldg., Jose Cruz St., Barrio Ugong, Pasig City with contact numbers 671-7385 and 671-0998. Please look for Thea.

Hotel PonteFino BATANGAS CITY

A Business Hotel with De Luxe Facilities
In Batangas City

Needs creative and empowered hotel professionals for the following positions:

Customer Service Officer **Restaurant Supervisor** **Front Office Agents**
Line Cooks **Storekeeper** **Seamstress**

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant; not more than 35 years old
- Knowledgeable in all facets of accounting function, preferably gained from a hospitality industry
- Is keen to details; Can work in a highly challenging environment

HR & TRAINING OFFICER

- Graduate of Behavioral Science course; female
- Knowledgeable in developing and implementing training programs for employee and organizational development
- Can handle HR functions; Is passionate about creating and sustaining empowered teams

SALES EXECUTIVE

- Graduate of any four-year course preferably business-related
- With a minimum of two years hotel sales experience
- Possesses excellent people and communication skills
- Enjoys field work; Has good network of clients/contacts

PROCUREMENT OFFICER

- Well-versed in food & beverage and supplies purchase procedures
- Good at price composition and analysis
- No integrity issues

All positions are Batangas-based.

Interested applicants can send their resumé (with ID picture) and application letter to:
Human Resource Department
Hotel Pontefino
Bgy. Gulod Labac, Batangas City

or **HR Management Group**
24th Floor., IBM Plaza, Libis, Quezon City

Join our business process outsourcing team and help us build high-performance businesses.

Want a hands-on role in making business work better? At Accenture, one of the world's leading management consulting, technology services and outsourcing companies, you can work on long-term outsourcing projects for global clients, turning day-to-day activities into highly-valued services. With more than 83,000 people in 47 countries, we have extensive working relationships with more than two-thirds of the Fortune Global 500 ® and we've been providing outsourcing services for over 10 years. Join our Services workforce and play your part in delivering better business processes to help our clients become high-performance businesses.

Opportunities in Call Center Vendor Performance Management (Ref. Code BPO-1123)

Manager
We are looking for an experienced professional to oversee the operations and performance of a call center sub-contractor. You should have several years' experience in customer service and call center management, and be familiar with the development and maintenance of service level agreements. You will be responsible for leading vendor management activities for the sub-contractor, while working closely with the client and our people to operate the enhanced customer interaction environment. Strong leadership and problem-solving skills are essential.

You should be able to collaborate with consulting professionals, third party contractors and vendor personnel to develop client relationships and opportunities.

Specialists
We have positions available for graduates with 2 – 4 years of call center or customer service experience to help us manage the performance of a call center sub-contractor. You will be providing analytical support to ensure that the sub-contractor achieves service level agreements. You should be familiar with data analysis and service level maintenance, and know how to work with consulting professionals, third party contractors and vendor personnel.

Get your hands on a job where what you do really counts. Send your resumé, a recent photo and a transcript of records to:
Accenture Recruiting Unit, 3/F MSE Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.
You may also e-mail your resumé to:
manila.recmgr@accenture.com
quoting the reference code.

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IFS Philippines Inc.

❖ Company Description

IFS develops and supplies component-based business applications for medium and large enterprises and organizations. IFS Applications, which can be implemented step by step, is based on web and portal technology. The solution offers 60+ enterprise application components used in manufacturing, supply chain management, customer relationship management, service provision, financials, product development, maintenance and human resource administration. IFS offers customers an easier, more open alternative.

A leading global business applications supplier, IFS has 3,000 employees, with sales in 45 countries, and more than 350,000 users worldwide. The company is listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange (XSSE: IFS). In Asia Pacific, IFS has offices in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. It is represented via a distributor in Taiwan.

Our rapid expansion in the region has created the need for an:

❖ APPLICATION CONSULTANT FOR MANUFACTURING

The position reports to the Country Manager, Philippines.

Key Responsibilities :

You will provide implementation and post-sales consulting services, perform business analysis, planning and conduct training tailored to the clients' needs. You will also need to assist in the pre-sales process and presentations to prospects and perform project managment.

Key Requirements :

- A degree in Industrial Engineering discipline
- 3 – 4 years' experience in implementing or using ERP solutions within large multi-national manufacturing organizations
- Experience in providing consulting services in the functional area of manufacturing and a good understanding of this business process
- Open to travel.
- Versatile team player with excellent interpersonal skills to facilitate smooth interaction at all levels.
- Proficency in English is essential.
- Experience in Japanese Oriented Companies is an advantage.

Please apply within 7 days, by submitting a detailed curriculum vitae in English, your present and expected salary, and a contact telephone number to :

E-mail: HR@IFS.com.sg
Mail Human Resources Manager
IFS Philippines Inc.
Unit 909, Phil. AXA Life Centre
Sen Gil Puyat Ave, Makati City,
Philippines

Go to www.ifsworld.com for detailed information about IFS.

Program Officer

The Asia Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to the development of a peaceful, prosperous and open Asia Pacific region. Programs in the Philippines have been strengthening good governance and citizen participation since 1954. The Asia Foundation's current programs in the Philippines promote government accountability and improve the public's access to the justice system.

The Asia Foundation is seeking to recruit a program officer for a new position based in Manila, Philippines to manage a three-year USAID-funded Conflict Management Project. The program officer will report directly to the Representative and be responsible for assisting in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Conflict Management project. The project uses multiple approaches to address three distinct types of conflict affecting the Philippines: separatist conflict in Mindanao, clan conflict, and community conflicts over natural resources.

Qualifications: Master's degree strongly preferred, Bachelor's degree required in the fields of political science, public administration, or international relations. Minimum of five years development-oriented professional experience in Mindanao, ideally in the field of conflict resolution and management, governance, and alternative dispute resolution.

Closing Date: Monday, December 8, 2003

Interested applicants are invited to send an email to general@asiafound.org.ph requesting a description of the detailed qualifications and responsibilities for the position.

The Asia Foundation
P.O. Box 7072
Domestic Airport Post Office
Pasay City
Metro Manila, Philippines
Attn: Representative
E-mail: general@asiafound.org.ph
Fax: 853-0474
Phone inquiries discouraged

The Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc., a Manila-based non-government organization working for the protection and development of marginalized migrants especially domestic workers, trafficked women and children, is in need of:

(1) Licensed Social Worker (for Manila)

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate in Social Work
- Experience in NGO developmental work, specializing in children's rights and child labour is an advantage.
- Has experience in case management and handling of children and women in distress
- Good in oral and written communications, especially in case documentation
- Computer literate
- Ability to work with team
- Good interpersonal relations especially with children
- Preferably single and willing to stay-in.

Interested applicants may apply personally. Please bring with them their application letter with comprehensive resumé on or before November 28, 2003. Applicants may also send their application directly to the:

Executive Director
Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.
2873 Lamayan Street, Sta. Ana, Manila
E-mail: admin@visayanforum.org
Fax: 563-4514

Note: Previous applicants need not apply.

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ART DIRECTOR

- Graduate of fine arts
- Highly skilled in application of Photoshop, Illustrator, Corel Draw, Page Maker, In-Design, and related software
- With at least five years of experience in book publishing preferably in textbooks and instructional materials
- Knowledgeable in printing/press work
- Excellent administrative and supervisory skills
- Highly creative, dynamic and innovative
- Able to work under pressure
- With good communication and interpersonal skills

Please send your letter of application and resumé with recent 2x2 photo to:

PERSONNEL
SIBS Publishing House, Inc.
8th Floor, Globe Telecom Plaza 2
Pioneer Highlands
corner Pioneer and Madison Streets
Mandaluyong City

MARCEL TRADING CORPORATION
S/F, 926 Aranota Ave., Q.C./Tel. 712-2831
or e-mail at: [illegible]

We are in urgent need of the following
MARKETING OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS
Graduates of:
☑ Food Technology, Chemistry, Marketing, Management, Chemical Engineering
Knowledge in:
☑ Computer Applications (at least knowledgeable in MS programs)
☑ Research methods and techniques
☑ Methods of reports preparation
☑ Writes well
☑ Fluent in English
☑ With at least 6 months experience in related field
Please apply in person w/ your resumé, 2x2 photo & TOR.

DESIGNS LIGNA

Is in need of the following:

LOGISTICS SUPERVISOR

Responsible for receiving and ensuring quality of all Designs Ligna furniture pieces and accessories. Ensures proper storage and monitors movement of all inventory. Also schedules and supervises the delivery group.

Must have experience, maturity to carry this management position. Works out of the factory in Bicutan and reports directly to the sales manager.

SALES EXECUTIVE

Front lining for Designs Ligna is not for everyone. To have the opportunity to work for one of the leaders in domestic home furnishing, one must have an appreciation for fine interiors, and be able to relate to our discriminating clients.

A degree in Interior Design from a reputable school is a must.

One must be willing to work 6 days a week in a mall setting.

SALES SUPERVISOR

Responsible for the operations of a furniture retail store. The sales supervisor takes an active role in front line selling – while supervising the sales team.

Sales in a retail environment experience of at least 3 years is a must. A minimum of 2 years in a management position is required. Must be an Interior design graduate from a reputable school.

One must be willing to work 6 days a week in a mall setting and reports directly to the sales manager.

We are happy to receive your resumés at:
dlignahires@skyinet.net

Engine Room Assistant
(Oiler or 4th Engineer level)
for
Small Service Vessel

The vessel will be operating Pacific wide. Experience in operating or maintaining a small vessel engine room is essential (tugs, small coasters passenger ferries etc.) The vessel has twin Yanmar 6HAK-T2 6 cyl main engines of 230 HP, and twin Yanmar 4PHL-N auxiliaries driving 30KVA gensets, with standard engine room pumps, filters and accessory equipment.

The engine room is unmanned at sea with full bridge controls and alarms. The applicant must be able to maintain, service and trouble shoot marine diesels and their accessories such as alternators, governors, fuel pumps, injectors etc. Experience with marine electrics and electronics would also be useful. He will need to be articulate with a good command of English, be well presented and have a personable manner. He will be multi skilled, and prepared to assist on deck as required. Good personal and trade references will be essential, and must be free to travel for extended periods. The successful applicant will be medically and physically fit.

Where possible provide an e-mail address for ease of communication. Applications should be sent to:

The Advertiser
Oiler/4th Engineer
c/o Box No. KA-012-03JE
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St.
Ermita, Manila

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Financial System Officer

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Head, Financial Information System Section (CTOC-FIS).

Description of Responsibilities

- develops and designs reports in consultation with users under ongoing Comprehensive Loan Administration and Servicing System (CLASS) project and related financial systems within Controller's Department (CTL) using Oracle Discoverer and related tools and programs;
- develops and designs specialized computerized financial accounting reports as required;
- designs and develops business models for reporting purposes based on business requirements and performs necessary programming in PL/SQL to meet users' needs;
- assists in the design and testing of custom interfaces and future enhancements of existing and new application systems;
- assists and coordinates activities relating to system administration in the implementation and maintenance of CLASS;
- undertakes research and performs trend analysis on ADB's lending products;
- conducts formal and hands-on training to users on the use of Oracle Discoverer and related application systems;
- develops training materials and guidelines on related systems and procedures; and
- provides technical guidance to junior staff and performs other related assignments as required.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- a bachelor's degree in Science, Information Technology or related field, with background in accounting or banking areas; preferably with Oracle Certified Professional designation;
- eight years work experience, three years of which should be in development, training and programming of technical and/or accounting reports using Oracle Discoverer and/or Crystal Reports;
- excellent knowledge and in-depth understanding of Oracle database and platform;
- expertise knowledge and experience in Oracle Discoverer and administration and/or Crystal Report with teaching experience in any of these programs;
- good background in system development in a large scale software package implementation;
- experience in preparing draft write-up on system operational procedures, and/or user manuals;
- proficiency in the use and application of XML, SQL and PL/SQL; and
- proficiency in oral and written English.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-NO03-171(4)-CTOC-FIS** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on **http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp** to e-mail address: **CS-jobs@adb.org** by 12 December 2003.

Human Resources Division,
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789,0980 Manila Philippines

Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

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HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Unit 3401, 34th Floor, PBCom Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue, cor. V.A. Rufino St.
(formerly Herrera St.) Makati City

Or e-mail: cecille_mauri@acer.com.ph

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or E-mail: egiihrd@yahoo.com

The Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA)
is seeking an

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

to lead the organization in promoting press freedom and journalism standards and professionalism in Southeast Asia. SEAPA is a Bangkok-based regional NGO, banded together in 1998 by independent press organizations in Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand. For more information, visit www.seapabkk.org.

Responsibilities:

- Ensure the smooth operation of all SEAPA activities by coordinating with staff, Board, volunteers and international organizations
- Oversee programs and projects undertaken by the organization
- Initiate fund-raising efforts and liase with funders
- Organize conferences and training courses
- Represent the organization in regional forums and in the regional media

Qualifications:
The ideal candidate will have:

- Nationality of Southeast Asia
- Management experience, preferably in a regional NGO setting
- Experience in fundraising, proposal writing and financial management
- Familiarity with press freedom and media issues in Southeast Asia and with good knowledge of the global media environment
- Proficiency in English with ability to write and edit in English
- Excellent communication skills, including computing and Internet skills
- Strong interpersonal skills

Successful candidate will enjoy a competitive salary and staff benefit.

Send resumé by December 31, 2003 to

Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA)
538/1 Sam Sen Rd. Dusit Bangkok 10300 Thailand;
Tel & Fax 66-2 2435579
E-mail: seapa@seapabkk.org
Both by electronic mail and courier

LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT AND PEACE (LEAP) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
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USAID Contract No: OUT-AOT-I-00-98-0019

URGENT REQUIREMENT

PROCUREMENT/CONTRACTS MANAGER

The **Louis Berger Group Philippines, Inc. (LBGI)**, as the contractor for the **Livelihood Enhancement and Peace (LEAP) Program** is inviting expressions of interest from qualified individuals to manage its procurement and contracting activities for the supply and delivery of agricultural production materials and post-harvest equipment for former MNLF combatants. The LEAP Program is a collaborative project of the Philippine government and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo). LBGI will contract for the services of a **Procurement/Contracts Manager** to oversee and manage on-site, "just-in-time" supply and delivery of agricultural production materials; and contract for the supply, delivery, installation, and commissioning of post-harvest equipment and related facilities for MNLF associations or cooperatives. Specific responsibilities shall include:

1. Managing the price canvassing and technical and cost/price bid analyses for the on-site, "just-in-time," procurement of agriculture and/or aquaculture production materials.
2. Managing the price canvassing and technical and cost/price bid analyses for procurement and contracting for the supply, delivery, installation, and commissioning of agricultural production and post-harvest equipment and related facilities.
3. Preparation of contract documents for appropriate execution.
4. Review of suppliers'/contractors' invoices and other billing documents prior to recommending for processing of payment.
5. Timely preparation and submission of financial matrices for procurement-related cost summaries.
6. Providing technical and administrative oversight over program management office, and area-assigned procurement technicians.

Candidates should demonstrate their familiarity with USAID and/or Official Development Assistance (ODA) funded programs and projects or other local programs which require extensive logistic management and procurement skills. They should also possess significant work in the conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, particularly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and the provinces of North Cotabato, and the Zamboanga peninsula. Candidates should also demonstrate good presentation, analytical and written communication (English) skills. The successful candidate will be contracted for a period starting o/a January 2004 through March 2005. Competitive compensation and allowances will be offered.

Interested parties may submit their application letter and resumes (including salary history) not later than December 12, 2003 to any of the following addresses: (1) the Program Manager, LEAP Program, c/o The Louis Berger Group Phils., Inc., 12/F, ExportBank Plaza, Sen. Gil Puyat cor. Don Chino Roces Avenues, Makati City 1200, Tel: (02) 812-1647; or (2) the Program Manager, LEAP Program, 2/F 1 Ladislawa Building, Ladislawa Avenue, Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Tels: (6382) 225-1451 & 53.

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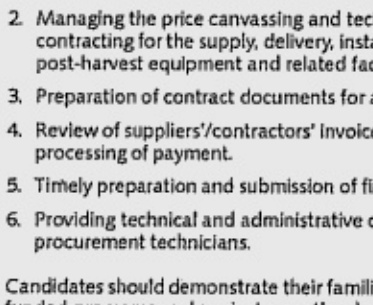

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33 Lizares St.
(034) 433-3160
Davao City
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Bldg. Rm. 207
Magallanes St.
(082) 222-6475
Tarlac City: TC Estacio Bldg.
F. Tanedo St., cor. C. Gantes St.
Phone: (045) 982-5155
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Apply at Unit 105 & 106 8th Floor Summit 1 Tower #530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City (near Cherry Foodarama Supermarket) Mon. to Fri. 10:00-17:00
Tel # 535-57-23 / 534-25-80 **Ms. Lily / Shirley**

PEOPLESUPPORT is a U.S.-based outsourced provider that delivers world-class, multi-channel customer care solutions from mission-critical contact centers in the Philippines.

PeopleSupport (Philippines), Inc. started in March 2000, and is regarded as one of the leading contact centers in the country today with over 1,500 people in its workforce. Currently operating at the PhilamLife Tower, Robinson's Summit Center in Makati, and at the Asia Town IT Park in Cebu.

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Please submit the following for immediate consideration:
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Please send all submissions to employment@ph.ingenuit.com - using Technical Consultant as subject.

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Biased Against Being Biased

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

There's a battle brewing on the suburban frontier. No, it's not about gas vs. charcoal, or whether it's better to ride or to push. It's about fences—stockade fences, to be exact—and which side should face the neighbors. It seems people are starting to build their fences with the pretty side facing IN instead of out, and neighbors are starting to cry "visual discrimination!" across those manicured backyards.

Now, fence building isn't so different from what happens at work, really. Most of us THINK we're putting our good side out (hiding our rougher sides from view). But our biases have a way of showing themselves to our colleagues whether we mean them to or not. The questions below will help you take a look at feelings you may keep hidden even from yourself. For more insight, check out "Love 'Em or Lose 'Em" by Beverly Kaye and Sharon Jordan-Evans (Berrett Koehler, 1999). You'll also want to check out her web site, KeepEm.com.

Self-examination

Do you examine your own personal attitudes? Whether we like to admit this or not, we all have "leanings" that make us less comfortable around certain types of people. There are the "regular suspects" of bias—skin color, age, religion or nationality. Or they may be based on something a bit more off the beaten path—a person who reminds us of someone we didn't like, a grating personality or someone who lacks our lofty status. Whatever the cause, we need to recognize our latent biases so that we can start the process of interacting with our colleagues fairly.

How do your "leanings" affect your behavior? Do you go out of your way to help certain people? Are there others you've hindered or overlooked? Look at the people you've promoted, reprimanded or simply skirmished with to see if there's a pattern (other than their own behavior) to explain your actions.

Desire to change

Can you make the commitment to change? Once you've identified your "leanings," decide to remedy them. Force yourself to look twice at people's actions to make sure you're judging them on what they've DONE, not on how you feel about them. Get opinions from others before taking action against a person who's in your "blind spot." Ask your HR department for tips on countering bias. That's the only way to ensure that everyone you work with gets a fair deal.

Do you accept this as a lifetime challenge? Bias develops over many years. Don't expect it to go away overnight. Keep at it.

If you take time to learn your biases and minimize their impact, you'll truly put your best side out. None of your colleagues will feel like you've fenced them in a stockade.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.comABC news.com poll: Are you biased?

— I don't have a biased bone in my body, 16.4%

— Who cares? 39.3%

— Guilty as charged, 44.2%

(Bob Rosner is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

How to develop a positive attitude

From page Q12

AUTHOR Ernie Cecilia

ceed, banish those limiting beliefs. Accentuate the positive and psyche yourself up. You are your best friend and ally.

5. Ignore critics. It is not surprising that sometimes, the people we expect to help us are the ones who stand in our way. Concerned that we don't get hurt by our failure, they dissuade us from attempting to reach our dreams. Others who measure their success by comparing themselves with us can show negative responses as we inch closer to our goals. In both cases, we tend to listen to their pleas for us to give up our dreams just to maintain our relationship with them.

Sometimes, it is easier to deal with known critics and enemies. We can simply ignore their howls and catcalls because we know that they don't want us to succeed. Our friends and relatives who convince us that our ambition is getting out of hand, or that our project is simply not feasible, may have the effect of a veiled concern for our safety. This is more difficult to deal with.

We must realize, however, that friend or foe alike can create mental roadblocks for us. When I am convinced about what I am doing, I simply close my eyes and ears to critics. What they say tells me more about who they are than who I am.

A positive attitude is truly the first major step towards success. Napoleon Hill considers it a "master key to riches." To build enormous fortunes, tycoons like Lucio Tan, John Gokongwei and Henry Sy did not start with small fortunes or great education. They all started with almost nothing but a positive mental attitude. With that master key, they opened a whole new world of opportunities for themselves. You can, too!

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a business and human resource consulting firm. He is a past president of the Personnel Management of the Philippines. You can email him at erniec@edsamail.com.ph.)

Catch the latest trends in human resources

ATENEO CORD (Center for Organization Research and Development) cordially invites all HR practitioners and other interested parties to its Trendwatcher Series. These short learning sessions serve as venue for featuring research and best practices on the latest trends in HR.

The Trendwatcher Series focuses on **"Rewards That Matter: What Motivates the Filipino Employee"** and will be held on **December 3, 2003 (Wednesday) from 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm at the Amphitheater of the Ateneo Professional Schools in Rockwell Center**. In partnership with Motivation Asia, the session shall feature a study done on employee rewards as well as some reward practices.

Fee is at P500 for early registrants and P750 for late registrants. Call, email or visit Ateneo CORD for registration and more details at (02) 426-6065, ateneocord @admu.edu.ph, 2/F Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC.

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Adhering to the highest quality standards, Amkor has achieved certifications in **QS, ISO, and SAC**. As a dynamic performer, it has received numerous citations from prominent customers and various awards from the **Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Philippine Quality Awards, Personnel Management of the Philippines, and the Department of Labor and Employment.**

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- **Thriving in challenges and growth** - pursues positive change; flexible in changing situations; motivated to contribute in a growing environment
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- **Focusing on quality and results** - delivers positive and measurable results; achieves tactical and strategic goals
- **Managing diversity** - welcomes different styles and methods; responds to diverse customer needs
- **Achieving in competition** - Sets high-quality, challenging but realistic goals for self and others; taps edge to full advantage to be ahead of competition; always drives for success

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Technical Staff: Production Supervisors (code: TPS), Process Engineers (code: TPE), Equipment Engineers (code: TEE), Test/Product Engineers (code: TTP), Test Development Engineers (code: TTD), RF Test Software Development Engineers (code: TRT), Customer Service Representative (code:TCS), PCB/SMT Senior Buyers (code: TSB), PC Planners (code: TPC), Industrial Engineers (code: TIE)

Please send your resumes indicating the position codes which can be found in the parentheses. Those with experience in BGA, SMT/PCB, RF, and MLF technologies will be given priority.

Interested parties may send their resumes with the corresponding position code before Dec. 5 to: **Manpower Planning Department, Amkor Technology Philippines, KM 22, East Service Road, South Super Highway, Muntinlupa City, 1702** or email: **chgar@amkor.com or medul@amkor.com**

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Napoleon Bonaparte crossing the Alps
by Louis David

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PROGRAMMER
- Male not more than 30 years old
- BS Computer Science Graduate
- At least two (2) years work experience as Programmer
- Knowledgeable in development of program Application using Windows & DOS based system
- Exposure in LAN set up programs & NT Server
- Willing to travel in different provinces

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS:
- Honest/Hardworking/People Oriented
- Excellent in oral and written Communication

Applicants may send their resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records to (please indicate the position applied for & the area of preference):

Box No. KA-010-03 MT
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- Candidate must be a Bar passer
- Not more than 35 years old
- With at least 3 years experience in litigation, corporate or related field of endeavor
- Good command, both oral & written, of English language
- Computer literate on various computer applications
- Can work under pressure & extended hours

Due to the urgency of the position applicants are requested to personally handcarry their comprehensive resumé, proof of records, & one (1) recent ID picture (2x2) not later than 4 December 2003 at:

2nd Flr., CTC Bldg., 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
Look for: Butch/Lanie- Personnel Section
Tel. Nos.: 831-8721/551-7530

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For **interested applicants,** please apply personally; bring your I.D. pictures, fill-out application forms or bring your bio-data on **December 01 (Mon.) to 05 (Fri.), 2003** at:

Cabanatuan City Office: Office hours - 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.
2nd floor Solid Bank Bldg., #586 Maharlika Hi-way,
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An established group of company distributing well known Japanese & American hardware brands is looking for professionals for the following positions:

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- excellent interpersonal skills and can deal with foreign suppliers
- can work with all levels of people & willing to work long hours
- ability to communicate in Chinese an advantage

ACCOUNTANT/BOOKKEEPER
- not more than 28 years old, graduate of acctg, finance, or related course
- ability to communicate in Chinese an advantage

SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST
- not more than 28 years old, with pleasing personality, computer literate

BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR
- at least 3 years experience both on commercial/residential condo

Qualified applicants may apply in person or submit their resumés via email

HR Department Computer Graphics, Inc. 2/F CGI Bldg., #25 Gilmore Ave. cor. Aurora Blvd., New Manila, Quezon City (across St. Paul's College)
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A fast growing company engaged in the distribution of various medical supplies is looking for

SALES/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- College graduate/Medical or Business related course
- Preferably with medical background
- With at least 2 years experience in selling pref. Medical supplies
- With pleasing personality and good communication skills
- Friendly and able to relate well with customers
- Responsible, Honest and Trustworthy
- Computer literate

Please send resumé to:
The HR Officer
Box No. Q.C. 2003-105 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Bldg., 891 Aurora Blvd. cor. Oxford St., Cubao, Quezon City
megsales@philonline.com

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DOMESTIC HELPER WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SKILLS

A family from Hong Kong is looking for a live-in domestic helper with skills in ABA or Speech Therapy to care for a 5-year old boy with Autism. Knowledge in Sensory Integration or TEACCH preferred. Duties include conducting a home-based program in coordination with school teachers, as well as domestic chores.

Excellent remuneration and fringe benefits. Minimum 2-year contract starting with a 1 month trial period. Interested parties can email their details to **ellemacgregor@hotmail.com**, or fax to +852 25781717 attn: Ellen MacGregor.

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A Japanese trading firm engaged in Cleanroom System and Consumables for Semicon-Industry is in search for a

BUSINESS SERVICE ASSISTANT

to be responsible for Administrative & Business Monitor

Qualifications:
- Female, 22 to 28 years old and graduate of any four-year course
- Possesses excellent oral & written communication and interpersonal skills
- Knowledgeable in MS Office applications
- Highly-motivated, result-oriented and understands the demands of the job

Interested applicants may apply in person with comprehensive resumé & recent photo to:
18F Tower 2 The Enterprise Center 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas Makati City

"Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for interview"

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills
Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

The Department of Social Welfare and Development through the KALAHI-CIDSS: KKB Project is in immediate need of a:

SOCIAL MARKETING CONSULTANT

The main task of the consultant is to formulate and develop a three-year strategic communication plan for the Project as well as develop and assist in the implementation of a six-month social marketing campaign.

The technical consultant will have all or most of the following skills:

1. At least five (5) years experience and track record on communication and advocacy;
2. At least five (5) years experience of working in the fields of social marketing, advertising, and public relations;
3. Must have developed and implemented communication campaigns at the national level;
4. Ability to identify issues and gaps objectively and constructively;
5. Knowledge and skills on IEC development

Interested applicants must submit an application letter together with a resumé to the Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committe-I (BAC-I), c/o the BAC secretariat, 2nd floor, DSWD Building, Batasan Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, not later than December 3, 2003.

CSRs: A new breed of professionals on the rise.

DO you see yourself working in a call center? Imagine yourself joining the multitude of Customer Center Representatives (CSRs) in Makati, Ortigas or Libis areas patiently attending to overseas client calls with mugs of coffee to perk them up through the night. Brush up on your conversational English and be prepared to earn the kudos or even the ire of your foreign customers. Tune your biological night clock from hitting the bed to braving the streets on your way to work. Prepare yourself for the CSRs' way of life and see yourself growing in this fast rising industry. Because with all these peculiarities, one thing is definite, there is growth out there in the call center arena.

Take it from Prima Cruz, a Communication Research graduate of UP Diliman who is now happily working for Customer Contact Center, Inc. (C-Cubed), an ISO 9001:2000 certified contact center in the country. Prima's job at C-Cubed is her first after graduation. Despite the advantage of graduating from a reputable school, this 20 plus year old lady was not spared from joining the other degree holders in the unemployment wagon.

"At first, I couldn't get into the job that I wanted because they were looking for applicants who have previous work experiences. I think it was unfair—how can I get work experience when I just got out of college?" narrated Prima.

Fortunately, her hitch was just short-lived when she was offered a job at C-Cubed. Prima started as a CSR and after two years of hard work in the company, was promoted as a team leader. At a very young age, Prima now handles a team of her own, with at least 10 CSRs counting on her leadership skills. As a team leader, Prima is responsible in imbibing team concepts and ensuring that her team meets both the standards of C-Cubed and corporate clients.

However, rising from the ranks was not easy for her. Prima, like the rest of female CSRs, had to cope with irregular working hours expected of call centers. "Unlike my male batch mates, I found it more difficult to adjust to graveyard shifts before," she explained. Call centers are usually female-dominated; 80% of C-Cubed's population is comprised of female CSRs.

Rigorous training

CSRs like Prima need to undergo rigorous training on communication skills, American culture and accent, as well as product specifics depending on accounts to be serviced. The challenge does not end with C-Cubed's intensive training but continues with the daily actual calls handled by the CSRs. C-Cubed regularly evaluates the performance of its agents and generously extends incentives to motivate its employees. Prima is one of C-Cubed's top agents.

Looking back, she couldn't help but feel grateful for the company that recognized her potential and gave her a rosy career far beyond her expectations. According to Prima, C-Cubed defies differences in age, culture, belief, and personality. There is no barrier. "Training helps but everything is dependent on one's skills," explained Prima.

Professor turned CSR

Belonging to a selected team that provides technical assistance to a foreign corporate client is Rodolfo "Odel" Perez, one of C-Cubed's most prized CSRs. One may wonder how this Business Economics professor who speaks fluent German found his way at C-Cubed. Before his stint to C-Cubed, Odel stayed for three years in Germany where he further developed his fluency in German language. This he put into advantage when he worked as a tour guide for foreign visitors here in the country. Odel also taught in the University of Asia and the Pacific (formerly known as CRC) and the Thames International School.

C-CUBED'S Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) during one of their team meetings

Over a year now as a CSR at C-Cubed, Odel is happy with his newfound career in the call center industry. "Like teaching, my job as a CSR stimulates my mind because I get to learn a lot of things especially in terms of technological trends," shared Odel who is now in his 40s. For Odel, there is always a room for learning at C-Cubed. "Since my client's products are regularly upgraded, I am updated on the latest advances in the industry as well," he added.

People empowerment

C-Cubed values its hard-working staff like Odel. As the company is a strong advocate of people empowerment, CSRs like Odel are allowed to hold another job for as long as it is not with a call center and not in conflict with their schedule at C-Cubed. Odel, for one, may pursue his teaching job while working for C-Cubed.

According to J. Xavier "Eckie" Gonzales, chief executive officer and co-owner of C-Cubed, CSRs are the lifeblood of a call center. Call centers should provide a conducive environment for these new breed of professionals. "At C-Cubed, we find means to integrate work and play so we can empower our staff while they are having fun," said Gonzales.

C-Cubed is a Philippine company that provides outsourced contact center services to leading companies in North America. It has also supported projects for local companies such as Meralco and offices of multinational firms such as Pilipinas Shell, HSBC, and AIG-Philam. C-Cubed currently operates two call centers in Metro Manila, providing customer support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Its main facility seats up to 1,000 agents.

Distance learning ...

From page Q12

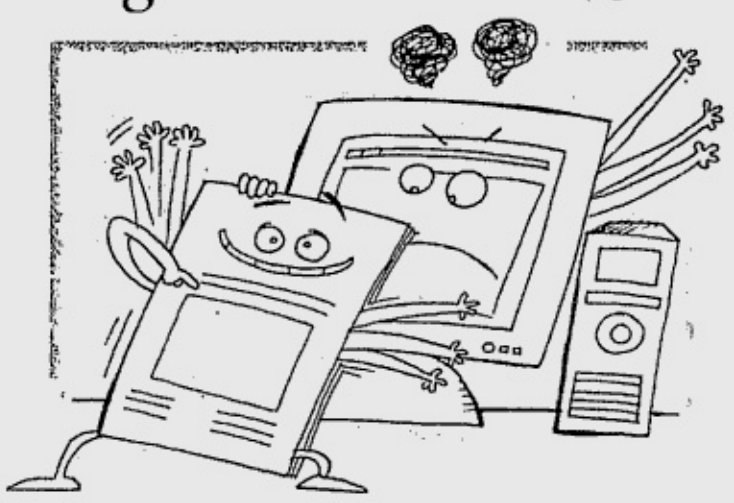

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

is already generally accepted. An article in the distance learning website www.distancelearning.com a few months ago revealed that some degrees already issued by a distance learning provider were revoked by the departments of education in the US and Canada. Those who paid for their degrees could not get their money back. Maybe, they achieved the learning objectives of the course but they don't have a valid proof that they did.

Currently, it still is a risk to take distance learning courses. If you are more inclined towards that though, just make sure it is from a reputable source. Be careful of fly-by-night websites who promise a degree in three months or so. Check the operator of the site, the owner of their courses, where they were developed and their permits to issue certificates, diplomas or degrees. A simple email asking for more information might suffice.

Companies here in the Philippines, I think, still value a traditional MBA more. They use distance learning more for their internal training especially if these companies retain a one is to one computer to employee ratio.

Your interest in distance learning, RBEC, is a good sign that you keep up with innovations. Keep it that way. Also decide for yourself, given the risks and benefits that you see, which mode is best for you.

Thank you again for writing to me and may God bless you in your endeavors.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through email to advice@ ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902.)*

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The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is a global intermediary development organization working in several countries with the poor and their communities as our partner, enabling them to improve their lives and achieve their full potential. At present, IIRR is seeking to fill the following posts:

Web Development Associate

Reporting to the Director, Regional Center for Asia, the Web Development Associate is accountable for the security and integrity of IIRR website, and the development, maintenance and continuous updating of the IIRR website and other sites that IIRR manages in collaboration with specific institutional partners. The post will ensure periodic review and enhancement of assigned website in terms of content, layout, appearance and functionality. The successful candidates should have the following: a degree in computer, information systems, or other related discipline; a minimum of 3 years experience in web design, computer applications or other comparable areas in web development; effective oral and written English; demonstrated experience and in-depth knowledge in web protocols and standards, HTML, and Dreamweaver and Frontpage softwares; preferably with knowledge and experience in developing and managing web-based database using Java Script, SQL, ASP, XML and other related programs; familiarity with relational databases, server-side scripting and content management; and demonstrated ability to work in teams and with experience from a multi-cultural or NGO setting.

Head, Conference Facilities Unit

The Head, Conference Facilities Unit is responsible for planning, coordinating and supervising the effective operation, maintenance and promotion of IIRR's conference facilities at the Y.C. James Yen Center in coordination with the management team. The successful candidates should have the following: a degree in hotel and restaurant management, business administration or other related discipline; experience in marketing hotel and restaurant or other related operations; effective oral and written English skills; with experience from a multi-cultural or NGO setting.

These posts are based in Silang, Cavite. Qualified applicants should send a letter of interest not later than December 10, 2003, together with curriculum vitae; contact information; three letters of references with address and contact numbers; recent passport-size photograph; and transcript of records to:

The Human Resources Office
International Institute of Rural Reconstruction
Km. 39, Aguinaldo Highway, Silang, 4118, Cavite
Tel: (046) 414-2417; Fax (046) 414-2420
E-Mail: HumanResources@iirr.org or visit our website: www.iirr.org
IIRR is an equal opportunity employer.

Cardam's

Cardam's, Inc., one of the major players in the Philippine retail industry for 30 years is looking for:

BRANCH MANAGER

Position is responsible for the over-all operations in the store.

General Qualifications:

- Male/Female
- 22-28 years old
- College graduate
- Superior oral and written communication skills
- Excellent customer service skills and problem resolution skills
- Personable, Highly motivated
- Willing to be assigned in different branches in Metro Manila

Interested parties may submit their resumé at Unit 2601 Atlanta Centre, No. 31 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan.

Only qualified applicants will be called for an interview.

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If you are, then **YOU** may be the person to fill the position of **ANALYST** or **ASSISTANT ANALYST**. If you're interested, drop by during office hours with your Comprehensive resumés, bio-data, and 2x2 ID photo.

World Shipping Infonet, Inc.
2nd Floor, Velco Centre Bldg.,
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Our company is an international power generation firm. It has projects in advanced development, under construction or operating in most parts of the world. We offer compensation package that is competitive in the energy industry.

Currently, we are looking for a qualified candidate to assume the following position:

Public Affairs Specialist

- College degree holder in communications or related field;
- At least five (5) to eight years experience in Public Affairs and Corporate Communications;
- Proven ability to communicate effectively; both oral and written form;
- Must be a team player;
- Willing to work long hours;
- With good organizational skills;
- Can work in a multi-cultural environment;
- Good time management;
- Ability to do multi-tasking job in a dynamic environment;
- Proficient in MS2000 Application such as PowerPoint, Excel, MS Word, and Office 2000:

Successful candidate can look forward to a career growth supported by training and seminars

Please send a comprehensive resumé detailing work experience and educational attainment to:
THE HRD Department
Email address: **lms_recruitment2003@yahoo.com**

A MAJOR FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED

SALES DIRECTORS and GROUP MARKETING HEADS

For Special Sales Project

Must have held division, regional, senior regional or equivalent sales/marketing assignments in the real estate, pre-need, life insurance and/or similar sales-oriented industries for a minimum two years with a successful track record

Must be able to quickly organize a sales team of at least 50 people

Generous compensation and incentive package offered

Please mail your resumé to
P.O. Box 3766 Makati Central Post Office
1200 Makati City
from December 1-6, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Prestigious Group of Eateries located in Makati and other areas within the National Capital Region have opening for the following personnel:

COOKS

- male, at least 30 years old, preferably married
- w/ 5 years minimum experience in Regional dishes & chinese food
- must be creative; and be able to formulate menus for delectable dishes
- hardworking, self-motivation and willing to work long hours

RESTAURANT SUPERVISORS

- Female, single 22-28 years old, with pleasing personality
- at least 2 to 4 years experience in supervisory position
- dependable, can work under pressure and willing to work extra hours
- fluent in English written and oral
- graduate of BS Hotel and Restaurant Management or BS Nutrition and Dietetics.

Good Basic Salary and attractive fringe benefits depending on qualification and experience await qualified applicants.

Interested parties may apply in person at 7th floor ODC International Plaza Condominium, 219 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

A Global company is looking for highly competent individuals for the following positions:

ENGINEERS
- Graduate from any Eng. Course related to Electrical, Electronics & Communications & Civil Eng.
- With at least 2 years experience with maintenance and repair of electrical or electronics systems

TECHNICIAN
- Graduate from any Technical/Engineering Course related to Mechanical, Electronics & Electrical Eng.
- With at least 2 years experience with maintenance and repair of electro-mechanical systems

AUTOCAD OPERATORS
- Have technical knowledge & hands-on experience in planning & designing and proficient in AUTOCADD

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS
- Must be female with pleasing personality
- Graduate from any 4-year course & computer literate
- Must have above average communication skills in English and Filipino. Can speak/understand French preferably
- Must have at least 1 year experience in being an Executive Assistant

CARPENTERS/PLUMBERS
- With experience

Those interested are asked to send respective resumé with current 2x2 photo to:
P.O. Box 419, Pasay Central Post Office, Philippines 1399
or through e-mail: trabahonow@yahoo.co.uk

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES
DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Medecins Sans Frontieres, a non-profit, international non-governmental humanitarian organization, is now in need for the Street Children Project in Manila:

Four (4) Guards

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Of good moral character and must be without any criminal or police record
- Alert, courteous and pleasant disposition
- Good communication and interpersonal relation skills
- Physically and mentally fit
- Holder of a security guard license, an advantage
- Know how to speak English
- Some experience with children/or previous work in institutions/ agencies working with children
- Previous guard experience is required, minimum of 2 yrs. experience
- Willing to work on flexible time

All application letters, comprehensive resumés with recent 2x2 photo, and other pertinent documents must be mailed / hand-carried or e-mailed to:

MS. MILENA OSORIO
Project Coordinator
Street Children Project
1519 F. Benitez St., Paco, Manila 1007
Telefax 526-4238
Email: msfch-sc@compass.com.ph
(Only shortlisted candidates will be notified)
Deadline for Submission : December 3, 2003

We are a Manufacturing Company of consumer products with nationwide distribution and belonging to the Top 1000 Corp. We have vacancies for:

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

To be assigned in the following areas:

1. Vigan City, Ilocos Sur
2. Tarlac City, Tarlac
3. Olongapo City
4. Baliuag, Bulacan
5. Balanga, Bataan
6. Catarman, Northern Samar
7. Catbalogan, Western Samar
8. Borongan, Eastern Samar
9. Maasin, Southern Leyte
10. Tigos, Davao Del Sur

Qualifications:
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Must be resident of the above areas
- College graduate preferably with experience in sales
- Good personality, honest, diligent & trustworthy

Please send resumé, transcript of records & passport size photo to:

P.O. BOX NO. 12940, Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City

URGENT LOCAL OPENING!!!

MARKETING SPECIALISTS

- Good Command of Japanese language both written and oral communication;
- Excellent growth opportunity and competitive compensation package.

For more information, please get in touch with us now!

PHILIPPINE-RN RECRUITMENT AGENCY, INC.
Rm. 308 ACRE Bldg., 137 Malakas St., Diliman Quezon City 1100
Tel. No.: 9265005; Fax No.: 926-5007 Email Ad: recruiter@worldwide-rn.com

LITTLE SCHOOL

Nurturing Young Minds with Big Dreams

Be part of our growing team in Makati, Clark, Antipolo, Manila, Lipa

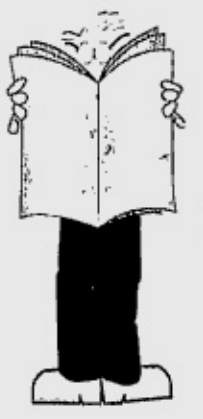
- **Academic Coordinators/Teachers** (min. of 5 years)
- **Bilingual Teachers** (English-Japanese) (English-Chinese) (English-Korean)
- **SPED Teachers**
- **Marketing & Event Specialist** (min. of 2 years)

Qualifications:
- Female (22-30 years old), loves children ages 2-6
- A team player who can work with min. supervision
- Can work full-time or part-time inside the mall
- Mature & professional mindset/behavior
- Must have a pleasant personality & above average written & oral com. skills, IT literate
- Can work under pressure & highly resourceful
- Excellent leadership & management skills
- Non-smoker

Apply personally and submit resumé w/ 2x2 picture to:
Mr. Erwin Gattoc
Little School
3rd Level (near Dreamzone),
Robinsons Place, Manila

For qualified applicants, we offer a salary starting PhP10,000/month with scholarship grants.

Where you find the best.



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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

Contributing Editor **Regina Galang Reyes**

How to develop a positive attitude

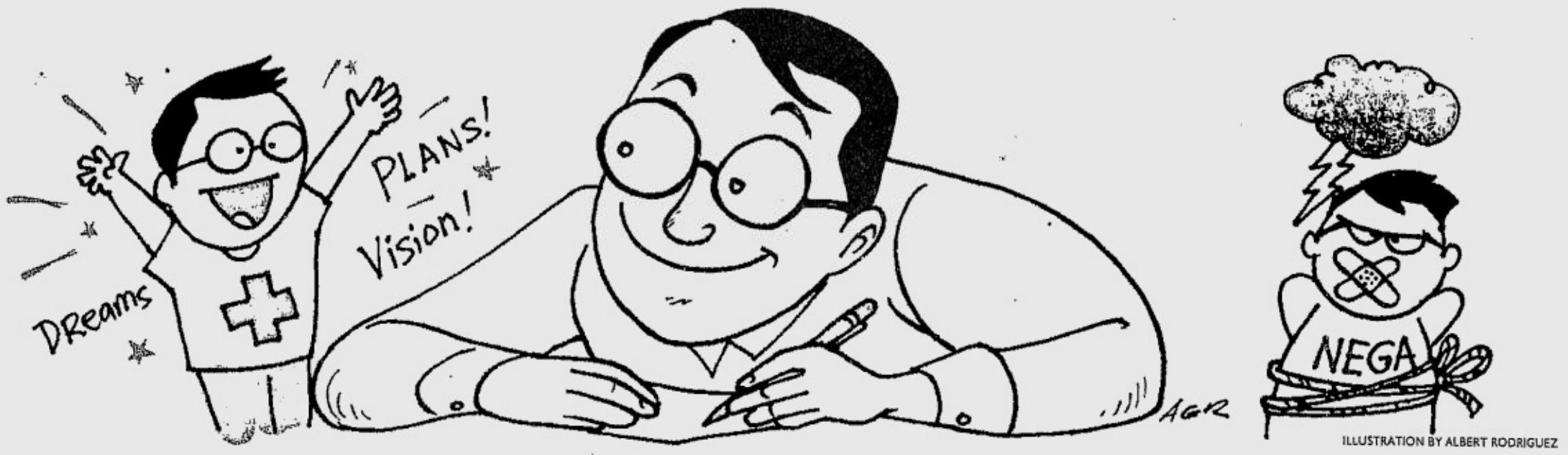


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

MOST things in this world are created twice—first mentally, then physically. Inventors, builders, artists and most other craftsmen start building physical things first in their mind. Most successful people started seeing the shape and smelling the scent of success in their minds before they actually realized success. As the vitamin supplement ad says, "What your mind can conceive, your body can achieve."

I have keenly observed and asked successful business and government leaders, media and entertainment icons, and even employees, students, and small entrepreneurs about the most important ingredient in their success. Most of them seem to agree on one ingredient—a positive attitude.

All throughout mankind's recorded history, a positive attitude emboldened sailors to sail uncharted waters, believing that there is land beyond the seas. It sustained scientists in their search for cures to seemingly incurable diseases. It gave inventors the impetus to go on with their experiments, knowing with each failure, what did not work and with each success, what worked.

To develop a positive attitude, try the following suggestions:

1. Realize that you're 'schizophrenic.' There are two distinct persons living inside your body. They are constantly at odds and in conflict with each other. One is a positive person who thinks in terms of health, wealth, success, harmonious relationships, personal achievement and other blessings. The other person inside you thinks and lives in fear, doubt, poverty and ill health.

If you cannot control your negative self, you will experience negative feelings and vibrations. You become susceptible to receiving and believing negative messages. When you allow your negative self to be in control, the negative messages will tend to guide your action and behavior. Invariably, this leads to negative circumstances in your life that you'd rather not choose.

> 'When I am convinced about what I am doing, I simply close my eyes and ears to critics. What they say tells me more about who they are than who I am'

When your positive self is in control, it allows positive, optimistic and stimulating thoughts and feelings to guide your actions. Your positive action will invariably produce positive results that usually translate into prosperity, sound health, harmony and happiness.

2. Want something. The moment you start wanting something, you begin a positive process that would likely lead to success. Most of us have been programmed to get only what we need. Want is usually beyond sufficiency. If you need a watch, you'll likely settle for an ordinary wristwatch with a plastic bracelet. But if you want a diamond-studded, 18-karat gold Swiss-made chronometer, you set into motion a powerful desire to own a luxurious timepiece. It sparks a desire in your mind and conditions your system to go after what you want.

Wanting something is the beginning of a positive process of attaining what you want in life. On the other hand, when you declare that you are contented with what you have, your mind tells you that you don't have to work hard for increments or changes for the better. It conditions you to accept mediocrity. You are bound to forego your dreams and settle with what you already have, no matter how meager it is.

Dr. Cherie Carter-Scott says, "When you experience the initial spark of desire, you set the game of success in motion."

3. Stop sabotaging yourself. Many of us don't need enemies or competition in our quest for a better life. We don't need external pressures to tell us how difficult it is to achieve what we want in life. There is always our negative self to remind us no end why things can't be done, why we don't have the skill or courage to do something. Since we don't have to do anything in order to fail, it is so easy to fail. We don't have to exert any effort or pay any price—we just have to listen to our negative self. This is the best way we can sabotage and deny ourselves the abundance, health and great feelings we deserve.

Henry Ford once said, "If you think you can do a thing, or think you can't do a thing, you're right." The choice is yours. Think negative and you fail. Have a positive attitude and you succeed.

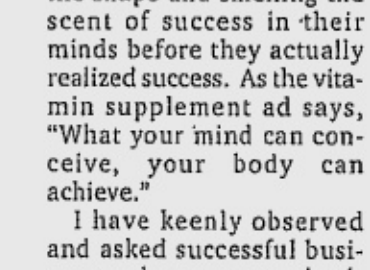
4. Banish limiting beliefs. All through the years, we have accumulated several limiting beliefs that tend to tell us emphatically, "You can't do it!" Whenever you want to fail, you don't have to dig deep into your memory bank to remember how you stumbled when you were learning to walk, ride a bike, or how you flunked a quiz, an employment interview or missed a promotion. As humans, we have fond memories of our failures. In fact, as a nation, we celebrate more tragedies than victories—the Fall of Bataan, Corregidor, Tirad Pass or the Death March, etc.

Whenever confronted with opportunities to shine, we either turn them down or start off by apologizing, saying we're not good at it, we don't deserve it or we don't have what it takes. It is easy to fail, because "when you think you are beaten, you are!"

If you really want to suc

HOW TO DEVELOP/ Q8

Distance learning or regular MBA?



By Tita Datu Puangco

I'M a paramedical course graduate but I wanted to take Business Administration in college. I plan to take up Business Administration from a correspondence school or online. Lots of modular courses are being offered and I can earn a second course at home in my spare time.

If I do so, would I have a good chance of getting accepted if I apply for a managerial post in corporations (e.g. San Miguel or Ayala)? Should I get an MBA instead? My first course is a 4-year one (BSMT).

RBEC

Thanks for your question. A lot of options really are available right now to those who seek continuous improvement in their fields or who are looking to enhance their knowledge in other areas of interest. However, you need to take a little time in choosing the right way for you.

There are a number of factors to consider. You have to think about your learning style, the content of the material you are about to study, reputation of the institution where you will take your studies and how your future employer sees the mode of instruction.

In understanding your learning style, ask yourself, how do you learn most effectively? Can you just read text and understand how a concept works? Or do you need to see a concept in practical application first? Can you study for long stretches at a time or do you need to take frequent breaks? Do you have the discipline to go through study materials by yourself or do you need structure to keep you studying?

Consider then what kind of material you are about to study. Are you about to learn a skill? Are you memorizing concepts and definitions? Will you be required to read through voluminous texts? Will you need to compute for formulas?

Then, you have to put your learning style and the material you are about to study together. For example, if you are good with logic and math, then you can probably study those on your own. Computations will be easy for you and you might need less supervision to learn these things. If, on the other hand, math does not come naturally to you, it might be better to have someone guide you through the concepts.

Studying Business Administration requires you to do not just math but read through legal texts and go through a lot of cases as well. There will be concepts and formula to memorize, quantitative techniques to learn, definitions to understand. You have to choose whether to study it via distance learning or via a regular MBA class.

In distance learning, you can go at your own pace. It is best for those who learn with minimal structure, who can commit to studying the material with no supervision and those who don't have time to devote to a class. If you take a regular MBA class, you go with a group and are guided through the material by a professor. Of course, the expectation is for you to study the material yourself but the instructor can guide you through your weak areas and answer your questions.

In terms of reputation, distance learning is still gaining ground whereas a regular MBA degree from an actual university

DISTANCE/ Q10

Proper balance

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WE are taught, from childhood on, that work is that important to our existence. As soon as we enter school we already "work"—schoolwork, classroom work, homework—we work for good grades, to please our parents, to win honor, to get an education that will prepare us for adulthood. In high school, they add "community work" to our curriculum—something we do as a service to the community, such as cleaning and beautifying our surroundings, etc. If we continue after high school, whether as working students or as scholars, we also work as OJTs (on-the-job trainees) or as apprentices on our "practicum." Indeed, from age seven onwards, everything seems to be a preparation for a world of work! Have you ever asked yourself if that's healthy?

Now that we are really working—when our very subsistence depends on work—we are always reminded to take care that we always have work, that we do our work well, that if we do not work we shouldn't eat, etc. And so we try to update ourselves and upgrade our skills in order to stay competitive; we try to keep healthy and not abuse ourselves in order that we may be in top (working) shape. But is that all we live for—work? I don't think so. Just as we are warned not to overindulge in pleasures so as not to damage our work, Jesus also tells us today not to allow our "hearts to become drowsy ...from the anxieties of daily life." Men and women of the 21st century, that means work! There's such a thing as overdoing it, of making work the center of our life. When we make a god out of work, we lose our balance, and that's when we start to fall. *(Email the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph*)*

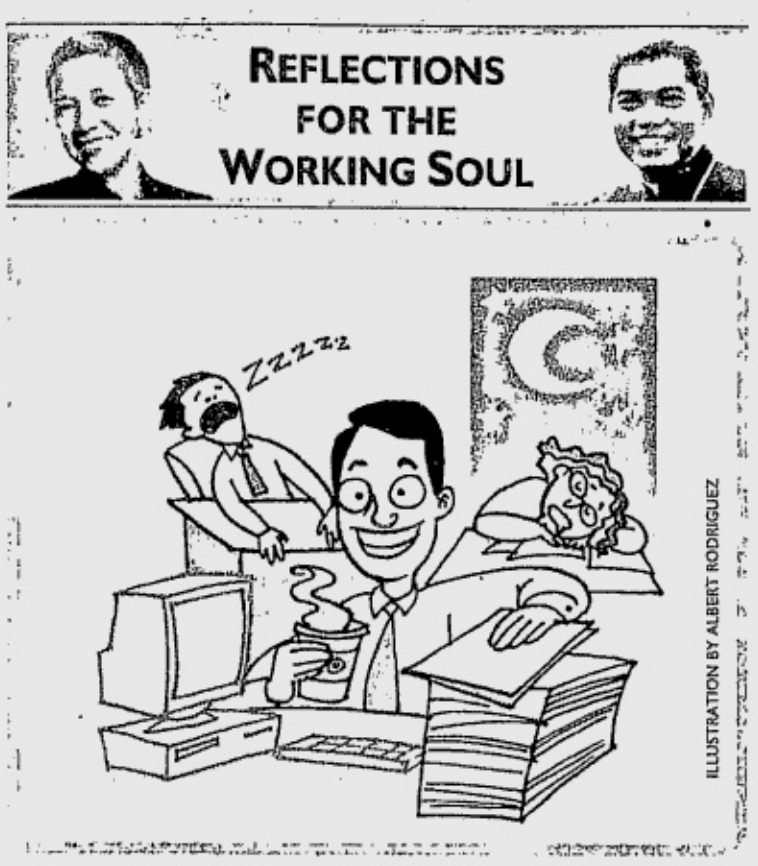


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life...Be vigilant at all times and pray...

Double alertness in work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

WOULD you take the plane if you know that the pilot is emotionally upset or is under the influence of prohibited drugs? Certainly you will be afraid to do so. You will feel at peace only when you know that everyone, from the pilot down to the last ground personnel, is fully alert and responsible in his/her assigned task. Attentiveness to one's job and awareness of one's actions make everyone feel secure and confident that disasters will not happen.

There is need therefore to be "vigilant at all times" both in work and in life, as Jesus warns us in today's gospel. A worker needs to be always alert and conscious in doing his job. Otherwise, he will cause disaster to himself or to others. The danger of losing life or limb is imminent when an operator gets distracted in his work. Destruction of expensive equipment is certain when the worker lacks concentration in his job. Just one moment of distraction or lack of awareness by a worker could ruin everything for him and even for the whole company.

The warning of Jesus to be vigilant does not apply only to "alertness of the mind" in doing our work but also to "alertness of the heart" in putting love and passion in our work. Jesus added prayer in his recommendation. One who works not only with an alert mind but also with an "alert" heart—consciously offering his work for love of God, family and others for example—prays. He will not be afraid of any disaster; he is secure and at peace, feeling loved by an Almighty Father. *(Email the author at* mfv@skyinet.net*)*

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

Fiestamall

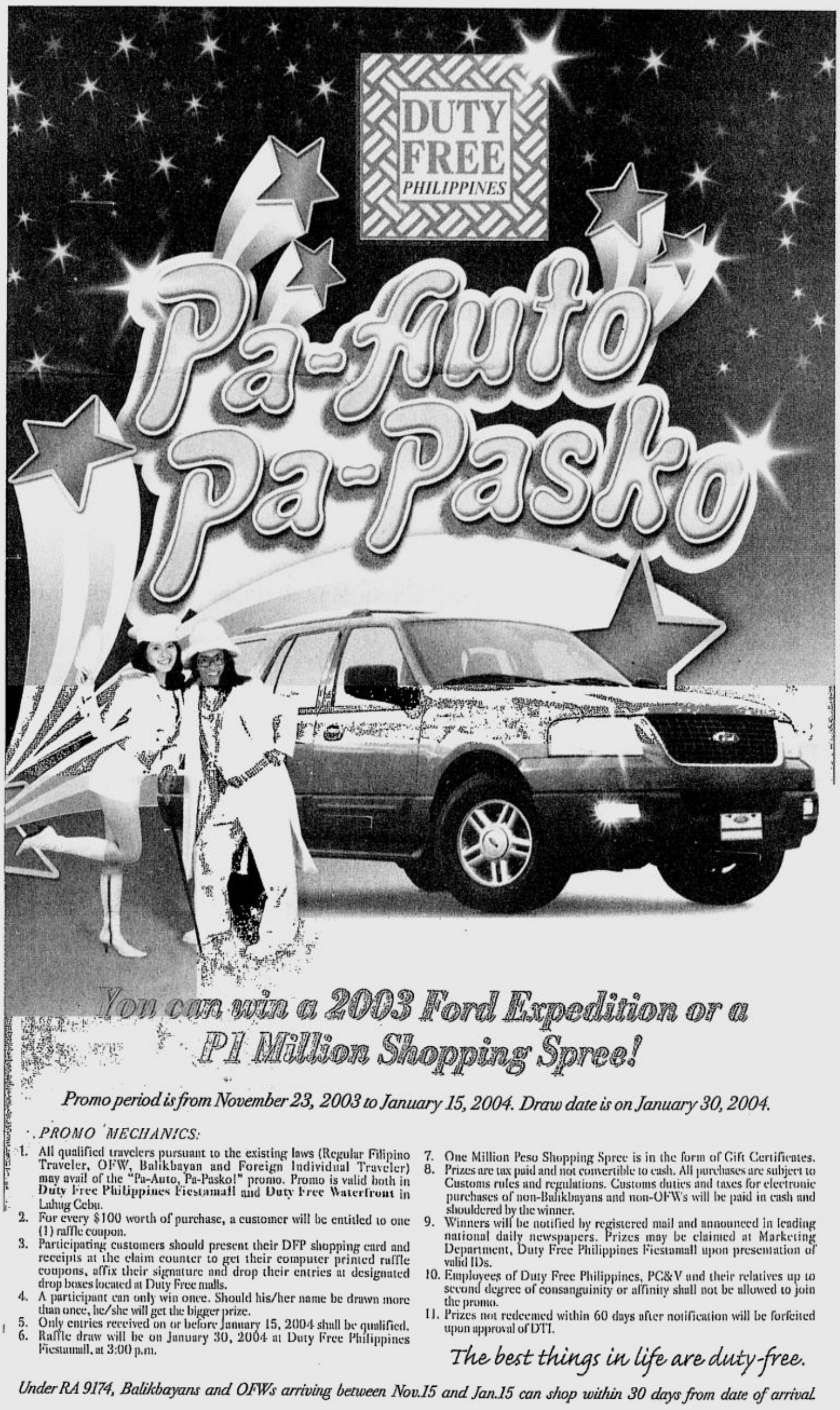
The best things in life are ~~free~~ duty free.

COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

DUTY Free Philippines defines itself as a world-class travel retailer committed to satisfying the shopping needs of the international traveler in an efficient service environment showcasing the Filipino traits of warmth and hospitality.

It is likewise committed to building a stable and responsive company that enhances the professional growth and well-being of its employees and supports the development of the country's tourism industry.

This is Duty Free Philippines' mission statement and efforts to fulfill this mission has not gone unnoticed by different prestigious award giving bodies, who recognize outstanding performances in the global duty free industry.



You can win a 2003 Ford Expedition or a P1 Million Shopping Spree!

Promo period is from November 23, 2003 to January 15, 2004. Draw date is on January 30, 2004.

PROMO MECHANICS:

1. All qualified travelers pursuant to the existing laws (Regular Filipino Traveler, OFW, Balikbayan and Foreign Individual Traveler) may avail of the "Pa-Auto, Pa-Pasko!" promo. Promo is valid both in **Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall** and **Duty Free Waterfront** in Lahug Cebu.
2. For every $100 worth of purchase, a customer will be entitled to one (1) raffle coupon.
3. Participating customers should present their DFP shopping card and receipts at the claim counter to get their computer printed raffle coupons, affix their signature and drop their entries at designated drop boxes located at Duty Free malls.
4. A participant can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he/she will get the bigger prize.
5. Only entries received on or before January 15, 2004 shall be qualified.
6. Raffle draw will be on January 30, 2004 at Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall, at 3:00 p.m.
7. One Million Peso Shopping Spree is in the form of Gift Certificates.
8. Prizes are tax paid and not convertible to cash. All purchases are subject to Customs rules and regulations. Customs duties and taxes for electronic purchases of non-Balikbayans and non-OFWs will be paid in cash and shouldered by the winner.
9. Winners will be notified by registered mail and announced in leading national daily newspapers. Prizes may be claimed at Marketing Department, Duty Free Philippines Fiestamall upon presentation of valid IDs.
10. Employees of Duty Free Philippines, PC&V and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity shall not be allowed to join the promo.
11. Prizes not redeemed within 60 days after notification will be forfeited upon approval of DTI.

The best things in life are duty-free.

Under RA 9174, Balikbayans and OFWs arriving between Nov.15 and Jan.15 can shop within 30 days from date of arrival.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 2515 SERIES OF 2003

AT HOME WITH A WORLD-CLASS TRAVEL RETAILER

ELPIDIA O. LINTAG has not been to the Philippines to visit her sisters, nephews and nieces, for more than two years. The 54-year-old Lintag, is one of many Filipino nurses working hard in a Los Angeles hospital. She started working there in the 1970s and although she has become a US citizen, she still longs to be with the family she left back home. The same goes for 28-year-old software programmer Angela Cabrera, who has been working in Singapore for an American technology company for three years and has not seen her mother since she left.

Finally, the day arrived when they got the chance to go back to the Philippines, riding an airplane packed with other Filipinos brimming over with excitement. Amid the tears of joy at their homecoming, with hordes of family members welcoming them at the airport, they know there is one thing they have to do aside from eating real Filipino food - and that is to go to the Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall in Paranaque City for some serious pasalubong shopping. Never mind that they already came home laden with balikbayan boxes, the kind that Filipinos have become world-famous for, tightly packed with presents for their loved ones.

The homecoming ritual is just not complete without the trip to the Duty Free Fiestamall, where the family can choose another present for themselves, putting that hard-earned money from abroad to good use. This is perhaps the main reason why more than half of the people who visit and buy from the Duty Free Fiestamall are balikbayans like Lintag (Filipinos who have been abroad for more than a year) and Overseas Filipino Workers like Cabrera.

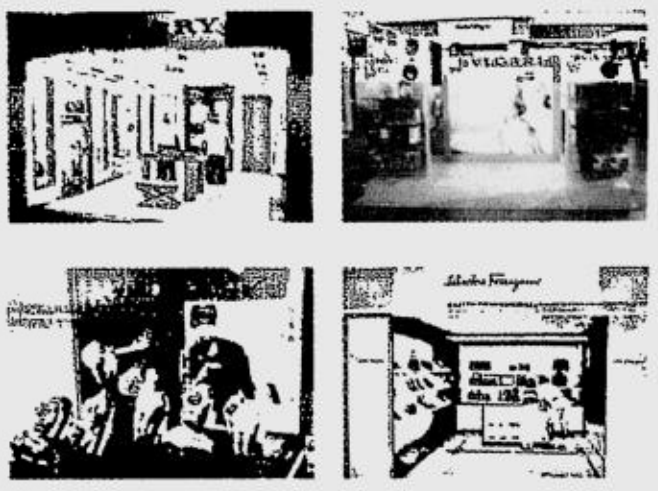
Duty Free Fiestamall has recognized that it has become a part of almost every Filipino family, thus, it does its own to help fulfill the Duty Free Philippines' mission to be a world-class travel retailer committed to satisfying the shopping needs of travelers, showcasing the Filipino traits of warmth and hospitality.

The Duty Free Fiestamall - located beside the Ninoy Aquino International Airport - is a 38,000 square meter building featuring state-of-the-art, shopper-friendly facilities with an extensive range of world-class products for the family to choose from. At the heart of the new complex is a two-story building with a 23,000 square meter selling area, almost three times bigger than the old Fiesta Shopping Center.

It can easily accommodate some 8,000 shoppers at any given time, which is just as well as the Duty Free Fiestamall can be filled to the brim during peak seasons such as Christmas holidays. The Fiestamall's design is contemporary yet Filipino. An overall beige and off-white color scheme unifies all fashion houses. It has ample parking space, and has about 60 cash registers for faster counter transactions.

The Fiestamall also has a food court with more than 20 stores where the balikbayans and OFWs can have their first bite of Filipino food after being away for so long, although there is enough variety to suit every palate.

There is a huge selection of toys and gadgets for children, electronics and appliances, home furnishings, fitness equipment and fashion items such as clothes, shoes and bags sold by international retailers such as Esprit, Bally, Florsheim and Lacoste. Another popular destination is the supermarket, selling imported items at reasonable prices and where variety is always a major attraction. Almost nobody goes out the building without the crate of apples or grapes.



Other popular items that fly off the shelves are perfumes, electronics, cigarettes, snacks, cosmetics and appliances.

Aside from the array of merchandise and the cozy shopping atmosphere, Duty Free is well on its way to achieving its lofty goals by introducing innovative shopping packages to get more people to shop within its walls. One of these is the Balikbayan Plus program, under which any returning Filipino who has been abroad for at least a year can shop at any DFP outlet up to $1,500 worth of duty free items within 15 days upon arrival.

The balikbayan is also entitled to the Kabuhayan shopping privelege worth $2,000 exclusively for the purchase of livelihood tools. DFP also designed a "shop now, pick up later" program for all outbound passengers of any nationality who will return to the Philippines within 30 days. The Travelite program offers a 7 percent discount on all DFP purchases, aimed at encouraging departing travelers to buy their duty free goods here even before leaving the country, and then claim the items upon their return.

Duty Free also caters to the shopping needs of the diplomatic personnel in foreign embassies, international offices, institutions and organizations accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs under its diplomatic sales, and to travel agencies and tour guides under the travel industry sales.

These efforts are on top of Duty Free's mandate to offer only the best merchandise for the buyers at the most reasonable prices. These efforts bode well for balikbayans like Lintag and OFWs like Cabrera, who save up for months for these shopping sprees for their families. And seeing the wide smiles on their family members' faces as they go through the aisles with their prized purchase is enough compensation for all their hard work.

It is at that moment that they realize that they are truly home.

MARLBORO · OFFICIAL OUTLET · Marlboro

Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall is authorized by Philip Morris to retail genuine imported Marlboro products.

It's all about adventure... The Marlboro Canyonlands Challenge Promotion

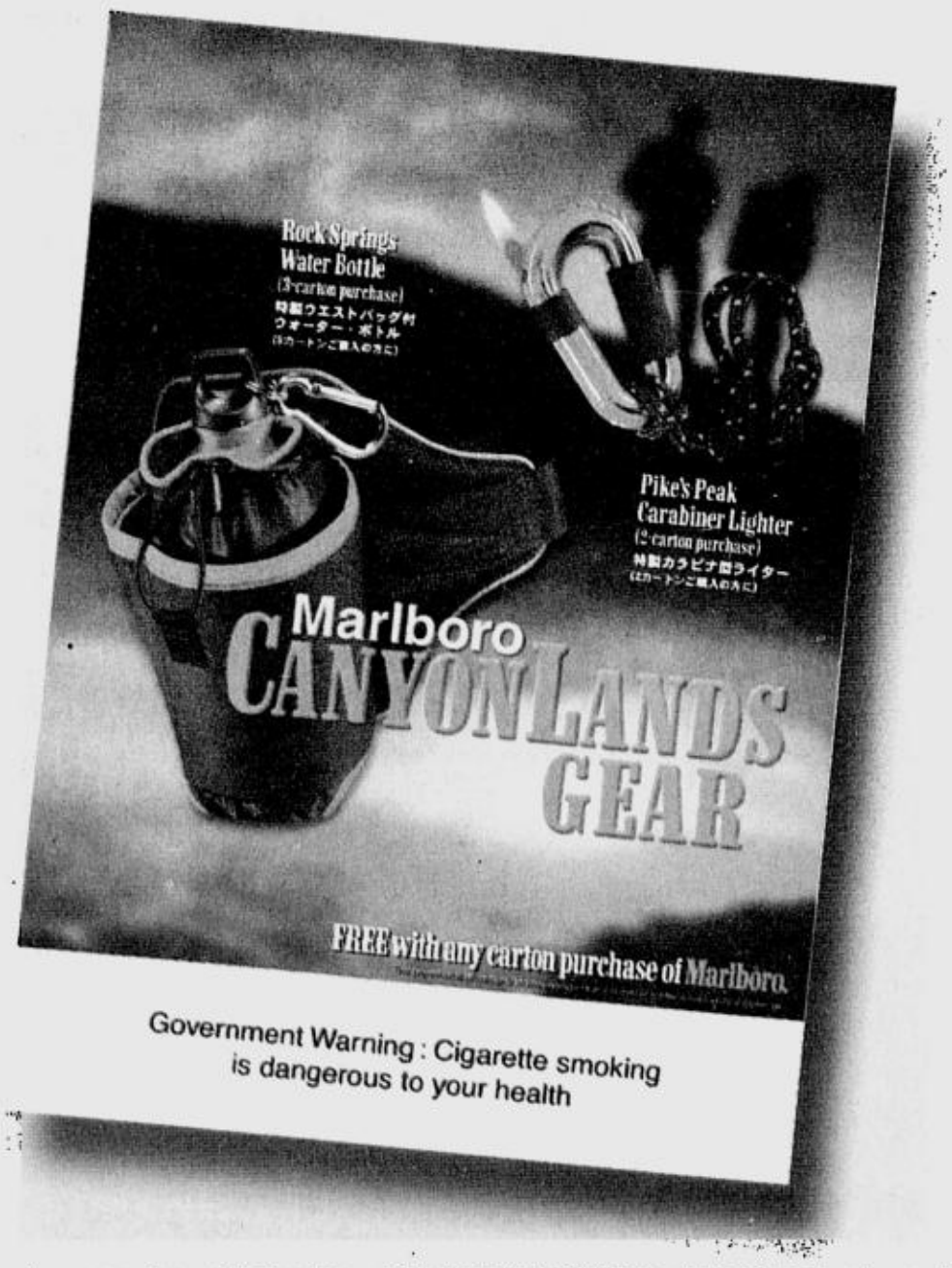
In the tradition of the Marlboro Adventure Team, Duty FreePhilippines Fiesta Mall takes its adult shoppers to the same excitement of MAT that has captured thousands of adventure-seeking Filipinos through the Marlboro Canyonlands Challenge Promotion.

Canyonlands gear and gadgets made for adventure await Fiesta Mall shoppers this holiday season. Marlboro Canyonlands Challenge promotion is offered only to smokers 18 years old and above from November 10, 2003 to December, until supply lasts.

Balikbayan shoppers, Overseas Filipino Workers and travelers to the Philippines this Christmas season who purchase a 3-carton package of Marlboro will receive a Free Rock Springs Water Bottle, while shoppers who purchase a 2-carton package get a Free Pike's Peak Carabiner Lighter.

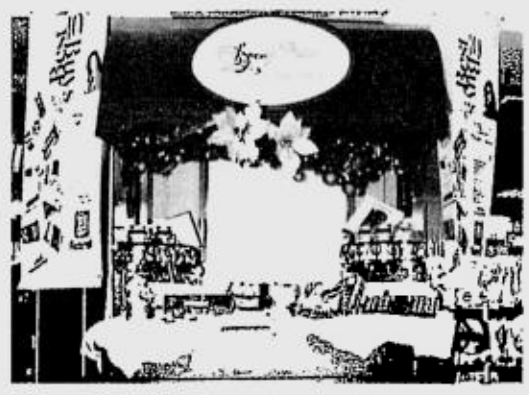
The Marlboro Canyonlands Challenge promotion packages can be purchased at the Marlboro booth of Fiesta Mall.

Whether it's the Rock Springs Water Bottle or Pike's Peak Carabiner Lighter, the Canyonland Challenge is Marlboro's way to welcoming you home!

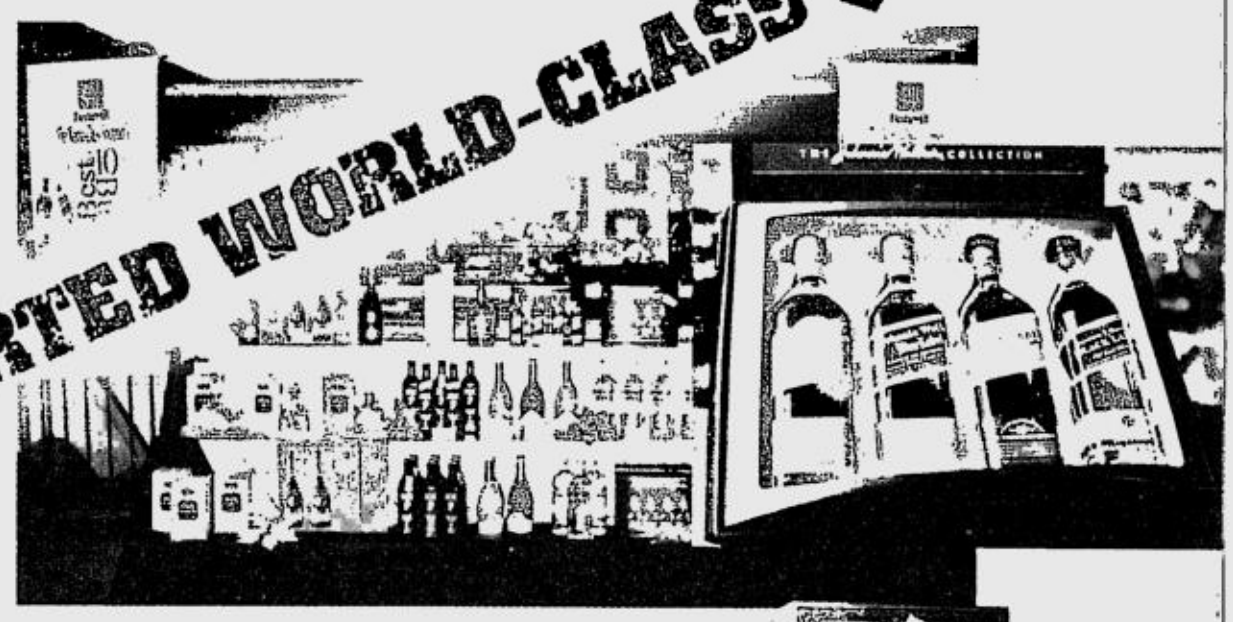


Fiestamall

GREAT BUYS

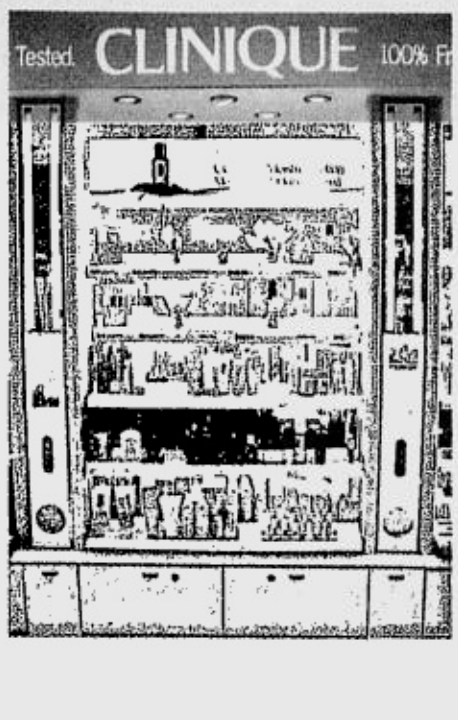


100% AUTHENTIC IMPORTED WORLD-CLASS QUALITY



"Local and international travelers, most especially returning overseas Filipinos, always look for the best buys when duty free shopping. At Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall, we add value to the travelers' expectations by offering them low priced but original, imported fresh items. Our line of exclusive items come from only the best brand names in the world"

Michael Christian U. Kho
General Manager
Duty Free Philippines



"This is my first time to accompany Johnny here at Fiesta Mall," Elma Rita explains. "With cheaper prices and plenty of goods to choose from, duty free shopping here is a delight," she adds.

"Liquor and cigarettes are my favorite pasalubong for my friends in Cabatuan," Johnny says. "Doing the rounds of the various sections Fiesta Mall makes me really feel I'm home," he smilingly adds.

Balikbayan and North Carolina resident Rosita Dujillo Carter, who hails from Lucena City, came to Fiesta Mall with his 29 year-old architect son Daniel a day after her arrival from the U.S. "Shopping at Fiesta Mall is a must for me whenever I come home for vacation," Aling Rosita proudly says. "We shop here as one big family", she adds pointing to her four sisters each with a shopping cart, who came all the way from Novaliches, Quezon City.

Daniel Carter was just amazed at how spacious and grandious Fiesta Mall is. "It's pretty good place to shop, and a lot of good buys too," he says. "It's like shopping at Walmart back home," he adds.

Family Shopping at Fiesta Mall: Making A Difference

The year 1986 is best remembered as the year of the People Power Revolution. For the millions of international travelers and returning overseas Filipinos, it was also a year of excitement and delight as it was in the same year that Duty Free Philippines was born. For Jose Johnny Redome of Cabatuan, Iloilo, it was the year that would entirely change his life. Johnny, then 25 years old, left his sleepy hometown in the Visayas to work as a seaman abroad, driven by the need to support his family needs and achieve his personal goals and aspirations.

Seventeen years later, Johnny feels he has fulfilled his dream of being able to help his parents and siblings in Cabatuan. Today at 42, Johnny is a picture of contentment and has his own growing family for inspiration. With wife Elma Rita and children Jessa Marie and Johnny Jr. in tow, Johnny dropped by Fiesta Mall one morning in October, a day after his arrival from an 8-month stint in a tanker, for his usual fare of pasalubong.

"Duty free shopping has become part of my schedule whenever I come home," Johnny says. "It relieves me of excess baggage when leaving my port of origin knowing that I can buy my pasalubong for my folks back home here at Duty Free," he adds.

The giving of pasalubong is a common practice among overseas Filipino workers. Besides immediate relatives, overseas workers extend pasalubongs to their friends and neighbors as well. An overseas Filipino worker is looked up to by friends when coming home. With the pasalubongs, he is even more admired, loved and respected.

Going around the different sections of the mall, with smiling and accommodating sales ladies, I felt very at home shopping with my mom and her large family," he narrates. "At Fiesta Mall, you feel that much-talked about Filipino hospitality," he adds.

The experiences of the Redomes and Carters have made and continue to make Fiesta Mall a different shopping place for the entire family.

ENJOY US$1.00 DISCOUNT FROM YOUR TOTAL PURCHASE AT DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES FIESTA MALL!
SIMPLY COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THE SURVEY FORM BELOW.

Here's how you can avail of the US$1.00 discount:

Your total purchases at Duty Free Fiesta Mall must include at least one (1) ream of Marlboro.

Fill up the survey form and detach from the Philippine Daily Inquirer issues dated November 30, 2003 and December 7, 2003 where a Duty Free Philippines supplement is published.

Present filled up survey form to the Customer Registration Counter of Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall together with your passport and travel documents.

A Duty Free Fiesta Mall Customer Relations Representative will issue you a shopping card with the discount coupon.

Present discount coupon to the cashier before paying for your purchases to avail of the US$1.00 discount from your total purchases at Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall.

This special offer is open only to customers of legal age and is valid for one shopping card only. Only the first 10,000 customers who submit the filled up survey form can avail of the US$1.00 discount coupon. No discount coupons will be issued to minors.

Gender : / / Male / / Female
Age :
Occupation :
Nationality :

Which country are you currently residing? _____
Number of trips to the Philippines in the last 12 months: _____

Did you buy duty free items prior to your arrival in the Philippines? / / Yes / / No
Is this your first visit to Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall? / / Yes / / No

What will you buy at Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall? (please specify)

	Item Brand	Total Spent
Food/Confectionary	_____	_____
Electronics/ Appliances	_____	_____
Fashion/Clothing	_____	_____
Perfumes	_____	_____
Liquor/Tobacco/Cigarettes	_____	_____
Others	_____	_____

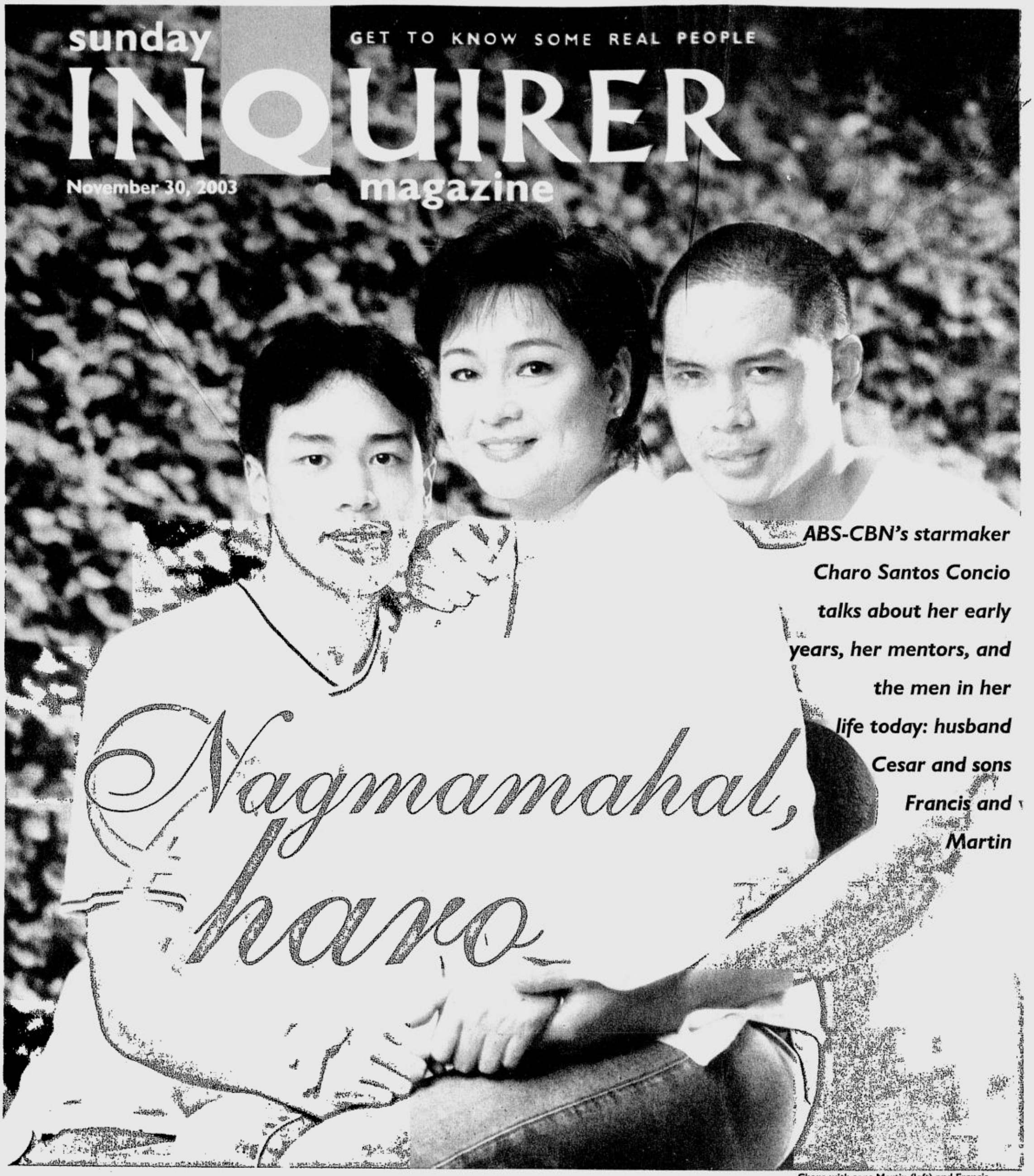
We hope you have a pleasant time shopping at Duty Free Philippines Fiesta Mall.

We look forward to your next visit.

Thank you and MABUHAY!

Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health

sunday
INQUIRER
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
magazine
November 30, 2003



ABS-CBN's starmaker Charo Santos Concio talks about her early years, her mentors, and the men in her life today: husband Cesar and sons Francis and Martin

Nagmamahal, Charo

Charo with sons Martin (left) and Francis

By Alya B. Honasan
Photographs by Jovel Lorenzo
Hairstyle and makeup by Mylyn Concepcion

IT'S A Saturday afternoon at the Concio household in Quezon City. *Paterfamilias* and retired businessman Cesar Concio is upstairs reading, and the two boys Francis, 20, and Martin, 18, both Ateneo college students, are getting some powder on their faces (albeit under protest) in preparation for the afternoon's pictorial. The sunlit, sprawling house is warm, orderly and immaculate, a fitting kingdom for the woman who rules it.

It's Charo Santos Concio, svelte and statuesque as ever, who volunteers her two strapping boys for the pictorial. Most days, Charo is the acknowledged heart and proven starmaker at top TV network ABS-CBN, where she is executive vice president and head of the formidable juggernaut that is the Entertainment

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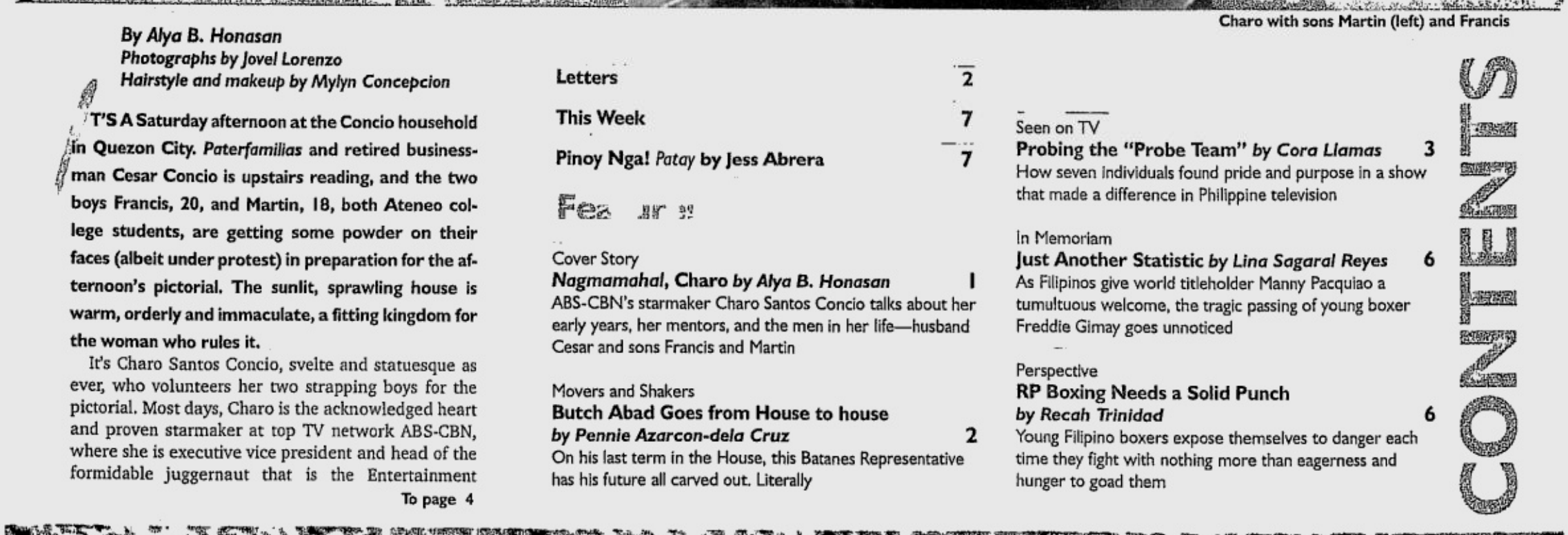
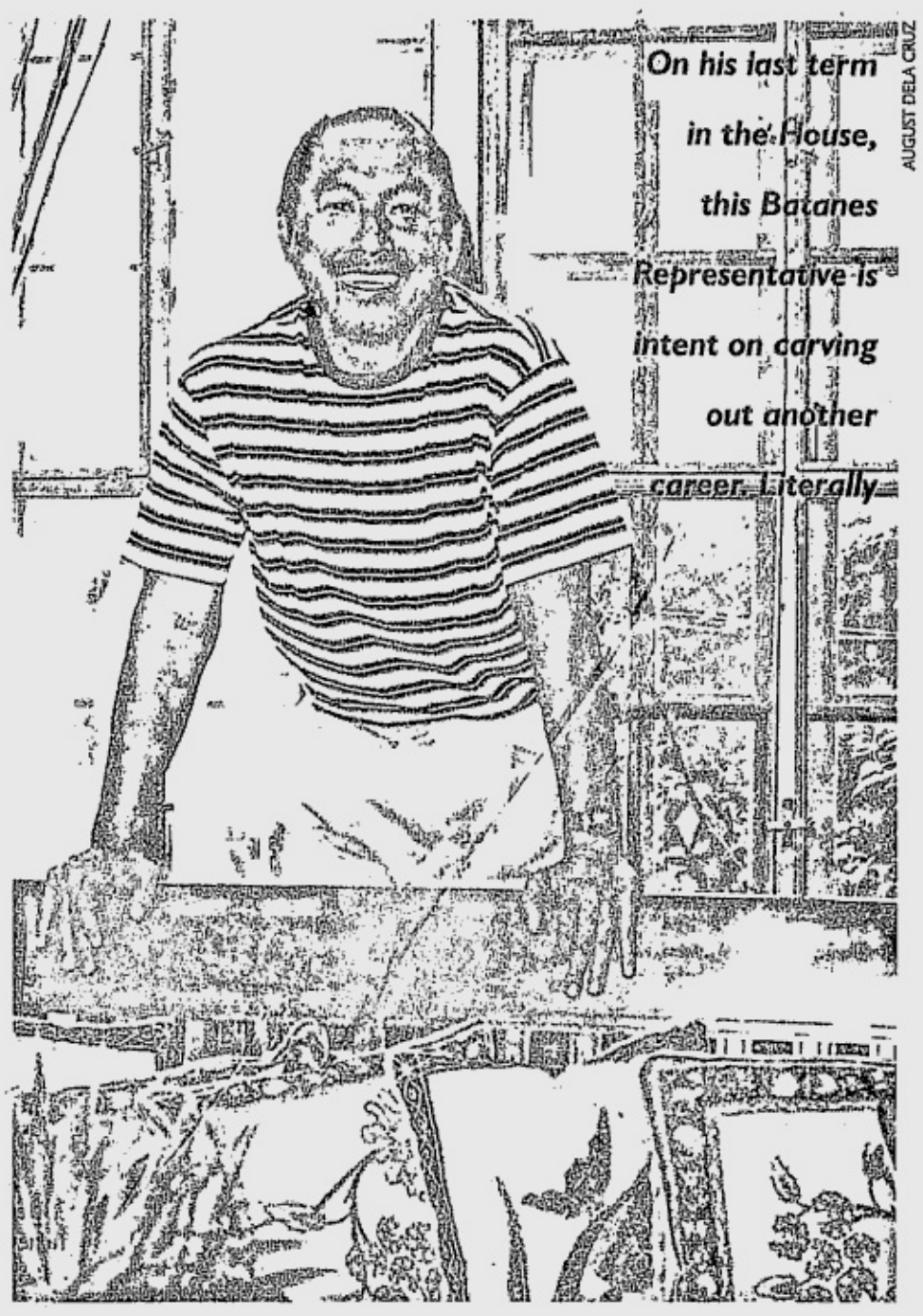
SEVENTEEN



Movers and Shakers

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Butch Abad Goes from House to house



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

On his last term in the House, this Batanes Representative is intent on carving out another career. Literally

HE was the least likely guy to stand up to the Brat Pack, that group of brash, second generation politicians in the House of Representatives who initiated the impeachment move against Chief Justice Hilario Davide for the alleged misuse of the Judiciary Development Fund.

But Rep. Florencio "Butch" Abad who represents at most 8,000 votes from distant Batanes, decided to mess around with the big guys anyway. The normally low-profile lawmaker's call for a crucial House quorum derailed the plan to immediately transmit the impeachment papers to the Senate.

"I had to do it," he says of his rare, very public role in the crisis just past. "Davide represents judicial integrity and activism. It was under him that the Supreme Court ruled on such controversial cases as the coco levy, the Kuratong Baleleng case, the Marcos wealth. For 17 years, we waited for a decision on these issues and it was only the Davide court that had the courage to tackle them head-on."

Tangling with the Powers That Be is nothing new to this four-term congressman. People still remember Butch as having endured the tortuous confirmation process that saw him rejected as Agrarian Reform Secretary seven times by the Commission on Appointments. "They wanted me to agree to a policy that would lead to the massive conversion of agricultural lands for non-agricultural use," he says of the landlord-dominated House during the Aquino administration. Butch lost not only the DAR portfolio, but also his seat as Batanes representative.

"*Ang galit nila sa akin* (boy, were they mad at me)," he recalls of the Ivatans' reaction to the double loss. The remote province that subsisted mainly on fishing had counted on him to give them a voice in national politics and he had failed them. In the 1995 elections, Butch says, he never had to work so hard to win back their votes.

Fortunately, he was to politics born and bred, having campaigned with his parents when they were running for office. In fact, he says, he went to the Legarda and the Basco elementary schools because it was easier for them to transfer to other public schools after being pulled out six months before every election. "Batanes politics is very personal. You could lose a vote by not returning a casual greeting on the street," says Butch. "The voters loved it that we would visit them in their homes, usually around 4 a.m. before they went off to tend their fields." The Abad children —all 12 of them (14 but 2 died)— were expected to provide entertainment: play the piano and serve snacks ("the assorted biscuits that came in tall tin cans"). They were also expected to give up their beds should unexpected guests come in the middle of the night and needed a place to stay.

"We grew up in this 12-room house in Sampaloc where at any one time, we'd have a hundred folk from Batanes staying with us," recalls this Ateneo law graduate. The Abad household was some sort of halfway house to the Ivatans studying or working in Manila or about to resettle in other places. His mother was cool about it, "until this one family, who were resettling in Palawan, came to stay with us for six months lugging everything they owned, including livestock. Imagine, cattle, pigs and chickens in our house in Sampaloc!"

The expectations were always there, Butch acknowledges, because his father (Jorge Sr.) was a five-term congressman, President Diosdado Macapagal's Public Works secretary and was credited with building Batanes' infrastructure, especially its waterworks system. His mother (Aurora) was Batanes governor and a House representative at one time, while assorted relatives occupied various public posts in the province. In fact, of 12 Batanes representatives since the '50s, six are surnamed Abad, the others Agan who, Butch volunteers, are also related to them. "It's hard not to be related in such a small place," he laughs.

But this is not patronage politics, he says. There is no contradiction between that and the alternative politics that he espouses, he adds. "Dole-outs breed dependency only if you keep your constituents in a level of poverty." Fortunately, Butch explains, the people of Batanes are not poor. "Well, they're not rich either, but they can go to school for free up to the masteral and Ph.D. level, they own their homes and they can fish for their food. In fact, Batanes has always been in the top three in the country's ranking in human development, or qualify of life index. The Ivatans also have a very strong sense of community and know that they can depend on each other."

It is probably this sense of community that saw the young Butch, hair up to his waist, joining Ateneo's student missions during the Central Luzon floods in the early '70s. And then again, it could be Dina Razon, a comely Maryknoll lass who was also part of the group. Recalls Dina

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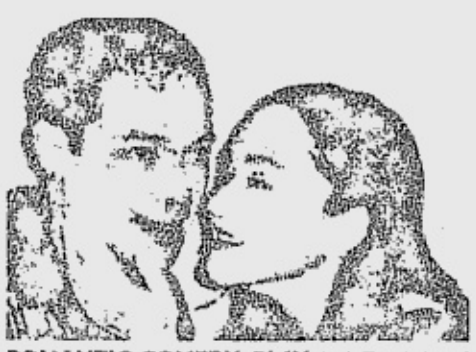


ROMANTIC-COMEDY PLAY Joel Trinidad and Priscilla Almeda topbill Dramatis Personae's staging of "Butterflies are Free" on Dec. 12, 13, 19 and 20, 9 p.m. at the Republic of Malate Theater. It tells of blind musician Don and his romantic dalliance with Jill, a frivolous neighbor actress. Tickets available at Ticketnet (811-5555), Ticketworld (891-5610) and at the venue. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

'UNFAIR TO OUR MOTHER'

MY name is Trisha, elder sister to Danilo Nicodemus (Nikki) Pahati Jr. I am writing you in response to your article on my brother, who decided on his own to change his biography and his nickname (**SIM**, "Green Without Limits," 26 October 2003).

Quoted: "Nikko similarly cites lack of family support as his main problem, not his disability."

1. Nikki comes from a relatively good family with modest means. He was born in Manila Doctors Hospital on 5 July 1972 and was incubated for more than a month. My parents were going through dark times, but Mom didn't plan to abort him, as he claims, because they wanted a son after me. Proof of this was his nickname "Nikki," which was actually taken from our parent's names.

2. His first two years were spent mostly in the hospital under oxygen tents, with Mom fighting for his life and refusing to lose a son. It was then that he was also diagnosed with having cerebral palsy. He was like a vegetable, couldn't even lift his head. His pediatrician then said he would forever be like that. This was what moved my Mom to make sure that he lives as near normal as possible. Mom was relentlessly looking for treatment for her son.

3. He enjoyed a private babysitter (whom he required to carry him until he was 14) and was educated at O.B. Montessori in Sta. Ana Manila and the Phil. Normal College. He chose to enroll himself in a public high school in Makati, then was enrolled by my Mom at San Beda College. By the way, there was never any scholarship. All school fees were paid by Mom, including those for his Drama Workshops.

4. At 5, because of his condition and thinking that it will do him good, Mom made him take swimming lessons at Makati Sports Club under Bert Lozada in 1977-78.

5. Six years of grade school at PNC Laboratory School saw him walking with the help of two people holding his hands and arms. But even at that early stage, he would refuse to walk, preferring that his yaya and/or Dad carry him on their backs. Nikki was not born afflicted with CP alone, he was also born lazy. Mom would not tolerate it, and I think that's how his "running battle with my Mom" began.

6. He left the house, not to be independent, but to get away from Mom and the house rules. Mom would attend to all our needs but would never tolerate our crap. Unknown to us then, Nikki would require our grandmother (in her 70s then) and Dad (up to now) to do his laundry. He has even turned Dad into his runner and messenger, without shame or guilt.

7. Mom provided his cab fare during rehearsals with Earthsavers, and provided him for all his trips abroad with good luggage, a wardrobe, pocket money and cab fare on his way to the airport and back.

8. When he had no income for several months last year, he squandered Dad's P250,000 life savings.

9. Last year he was confined at the Makati Medical Center. The bill was taken care of by Blue Cross insurance which, by the way, Mom paid for. The second time he got sick that year, he came home because he said he couldn't afford his medicines. Mom again took care of everything. He left when he got better without saying goodbye or thank you, not even a call.

10. Mom gave him two cell phones so that he could reach us right away in case of emergency. He lost the first, and sold the second.

11. He always says he can very well live without Mom, yet each time he's out of funds he calls home like we're a 24-hour bank and convenience grocery. And he demands help.

Quoted: "'My mother wouldn't accept that I was born crippled and tried all kinds of therapy to get me on my feet .... I had these surgeries in 1985 and 1991, but she won't stop until I learn to walk perfectly, without a limp,' he said with a trace of bitterness."

12. It's true that he had surgeries in 1985 and 1991, and they were corrective surgeries for his motor disability, recommended and performed by our country's top orthopedic doctor, Vince Gomez of MMC and NOH. Subsequent to both operations he was enrolled at 'Elks Club for physical therapy and rehabilitation. Dr. Gomez assured us that if he cooperates fully with his therapy, he could improve. But Nikki would not cooperate. He was just plain lazy. And when he found Earthsavers, the more he refused therapy or anything that would improve his condition in the belief that his ticket to success was his being crippled. Nikki never wanted to walk. He preferred to be carried by others. Mom's problem with Nikki is not his being handicapped. It's his attitude.

Quoted: "'The bullies in school added to the pressure. 'When classmates would tease me, I couldn't run away because I was crippled. I had to fight back."

13. His life, because of his condition, was closely monitored by Mom, despite her heartache over his attitude problems. We never got wind of any bullying incident where he was the victim. What Mom discovered was that he would pay classmates to carry him and his bag around the campus and in between classes. He would pay classmates to write for him. He behaved like some Mafioso guy. Problem is, you can't talk to him. No one can. That's why Mom decided to pull him out of school after a year.

I am not writing to destroy my brother. I wrote to tell the truth. I cannot allow my brother to dishonor our parents in the name of his ambition. It is imperative to inform you of the facts behind your subject's personal life, especially when the material is published in a very respectable newspaper. So much is told about child abuse. Truth is, there's a lot of parent abuse also going around.

Admittedly, my brother is good at what he does in the performing arts and in public relations. His personal life, however, is a mess because he has serious attitude problems which he refuses to resolve, resulting in disruptions in family relationships. This is what he defines as his "family's lack of support."

TRISHA PAHATI

NIKKI RESPONDS

I have been informed that a letter of complaint has been sent to the Inquirer regarding a story that had comments quite unflattering to my mother. I agree that it might have been poor taste to air a family issue for public consumption. I take full responsibility for that.

However, since we were discussing my background/profile, it was important to cite those incidents, unsavory as they may be, as the focal points that have shaped my character and present circumstances.

I may not have roots to speak of, but I have found wings to fly with! That is indeed a triumph of the human spirit and prime example of self-reliance.

Still, I clearly forgot that we are in the Philippines and that this is still a conservative country. The truth is always hard to swallow, isn't it?

But I will continue to inspire people like me to succeed in style despite the odds.

NIKKI PAHATI

ERRATUM: *Aeon Books' Marilou Gonzalez's correct e-mail address is mdgonzalez@pacific.net.ph.* ***SIM*** *apologizes for the error.*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Seen on TV

By Cora Llamas
Photographs by Rudy Esperas

Probing the 'Probe Team'

How seven individuals found pride and purpose in a show that made a difference in Philippine television

Cruz-Valdes, Lazaro and Karen Davila: "Debates on the show but friendships off-camera"

"It was the end of an era."

The words were heard again and again at the Probe Team's farewell party after the weekly magazine show chose to end its contract with GMA-7 over a controversial episode on Pagcor chair Ephraim Genuino in September. The network had postponed airing the episode until more documents were gathered, and chafed at charges of censorship that it felt were encouraged by the Team.

And yet at the Discovery Suites celebration, there was little recrimination, only revelry and remembrance.

But then again, this particular program had always held its head high. It crafted groundbreaking stories that asked the hard questions even from seemingly untouchable VIPs without stooping to brash tactics or sensationalism. An array of awards from the most prestigious institutions testifies to its professionalism and elevated ethical standards. Its alumna now command enviable posts in local and international news bureaus, proof of the rigorous training that they undergo in the show. More important, its stories stirred minds and touched lives, enough for a once complacent audience to get involved in issues ranging from government corruption and environmental despoliation, to street children.

As Probe founder Maria Ressa puts it, "(The show) taught me that you can be idealistic and still accomplish (the work). You get the right people together, you CAN change the system."

And who are the right people? Is there a template that determines the right match between individual talent and communal mission? It could be happenstance, serendipity, luck or fate, but seven Probe Team staffers recall how they got together and what it has meant to be part of the team.

LUCHI CRUZ-VALDES

Vice President, News Operations, ABS-CBN 2
One of "The Probe Team"'s original founders, 1987-1999

Watching respected TV newscaster Jose Mari Velez as a child sealed Luchi Cruz-Valdes' lifelong calling. Wanting to be part of "history in the making," Luchi finished Broadcast Communications at the University of the Philippines where one of her professors happened to be Cheche Lazaro. Years later, the two would apprentice together under the US network ABC News that, at that time, was setting up shop in Manila to cover the Marcos snap elections in 1986.

The two Edsa 1 veterans later joined the newly reopened ABS-CBN and covered (then president) Cory Aquino's working visit in the US.

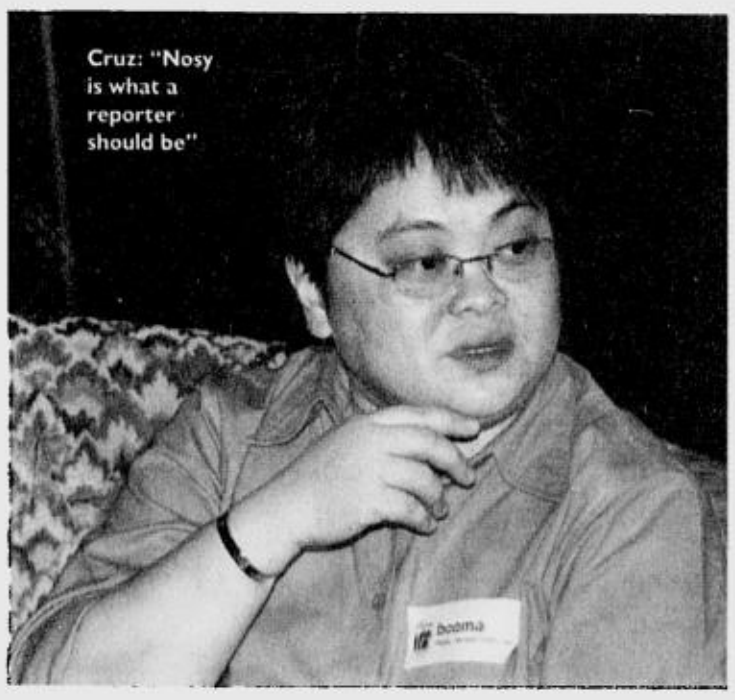
It was about this time that they met Maria (Ressa), a Fulbright scholar who had broadcast experience in the US, and was returning to find her roots in the Philippines.

"We (three) hit it off. The television industry wasn't ratings-driven then and that was good for us. Our driving force was to make visual such stories as debt restructuring. We did stories on the economy and made them sexy. We started slow. At one time, our ratings were 0.6. That's not even one person for every 100! But eventually, we gained viewers.

"We were uncompromising when it came to production quality. One great no-no in Probe is showing footage without natural sounds. If it's a shot of a farmer tilling the land, you can hear the (actual) sounds. (It was a way) to bring the viewer to that place. For the longest time then, (the standard of shows was to) use canned music, with no audio.

"Sure, we had disagreements, but we aired our grievances straight. The Monday after the show, we'd do post-mortems and the debate would rage. But outside of work, there was real friendship; we were kind to one another," says this mother of three.

"Probe is the best part of my professional life and I'm hoping that I can recapture that level of fulfillment for 20 more years where I am now."



Cruz: "Nosy is what a reporter should be"

MARIA RESSA

CNN Bureau Chief, Southeast Asia
One of the Probe Team's original founders, 1987-1995

Definitely an overachiever, Maria Ressa has a double major in Molecular Biology and Theater and Drama from Princeton University. Veering off towards a media career, she rose from being a production assistant for "60 Minutes" to producer for Diane Sawyer.

Going back to the country right after martial law provided new directions. "(The early years after martial law) were an amazing time. It was chaotic, but nobody was really trying to untangle the news and analyze it. Everybody was so happy with the freedom, but without purpose, it was meaningless. If you don't know why things are the way they are, how can you work to try and change it?

Ressa: "A strain of megalomania"

"This was what Probe was saying: this is the issue, and this is how it affects our lives, and this is how (things) can still happen.

"Our combination was unique. Luchi understood the Philippines and Filipino politicians and wanted to change (the system). I'm very American but Probe taught me to be Pinoy and the very best of what being Filipino meant. Cheche is personal; she sees a street kid and she'll send that child to school. (They both) showed me the depth and complexity that I couldn't have understood from outside. What I gave them was gloss, production value and the willingness to question their perspective.

"I used to say that we had a strain of megalomania. (The show is made up of) people who don't want to give up. They work real hard because they believe it makes a difference."

BOOMA CRUZ

Contributing Editor, Newsbreak
Media Consultant/Senior Producer, "The Probe Team," 2002-2003

"She is the one person who knows everything about me," Cheche Lazaro once said of Booma Cruz, a UP Business Economics graduate who proudly admits to being nosy, "which is what a reporter should be."

This intrepid writer-editor has worked for the Manila Chronicle, the Manila Times until it closed down because of pressures from the Estrada administration, and the feisty tabloid Pinoy Times, whose daring exposes on Estrada's mistresses helped boot out the former actor from public office. But having done its work, Pinoy Times was about to fold and Cruz went to Probe looking for work for her staff. She got hooked instead, and attributes that to the show's frontliner, Cheche Lazaro.

"She is a good leader because she leads by example. When I did a story on child miners in Masbate, she was sick (and asked to be shot at the) entrance of the mining site. But after we've set up, I was told that she had gone down to the mines. You'd feel really bad if you don't work as hard.

"In doing the Pagcor story, I had a gut feel that we were going to have problems. But had the Team compromised, it would have presented a dilemma for me. I could not go back on my word and say that (the story) did not happen, at the same time, I would have understood that Cheche was looking out for the welfare of the entire team. But given (Probe's stand during the crisis) I feel hope in media. There are times when I tell myself that (all this) is just work. Now, I have living proof (of people) fighting for what they believe in.

ELIZA ZAMORA

Senior Producer, "The Probe Team", 2000-2003

She has kept strange company—from communist rebels to a Macao gambling lord to an ex-terrorist— and produced stories about them. Her other stories focused on exploited whales, corrupt officials, and abused children.

Eliza Zamora's ability to build rapport with the most dangerous people and the most vulnerable of subjects makes her a perfect addition to the Probe Team. And so do her diverse experiences as a weather girl, a talent coordinator, a floor director, a police reporter, a Senate reporter and a financial news writer. For Probe, Eliza produced the bulk of the show's Mindanao war coverage.

Her main reason for joining Probe and abandoning jobs that paid six times as much? "I wanted to train under Cheche," she says. And what training she got! "Right now, I can edit, write, do the musical scoring, research, etc., basically the work of six people in a TV show."

She came in with no illusions. "From the start, we were told not to go into Probe if we wanted to be rich, famous, or become a star," she recalls. "But once you get over the money hurdle, it's fine. Not many people know this, but the Probe Team actually eat at *carinderias*!

It was never a question of money, she adds. "Once when we were doing a story in Macao, we were handed dollars for shopping and gambling money in an envelope. I don't know what the other press people did, but Cheche immediately said to return it."

What mattered was making a difference. "I did a story on this kid in Bacolod who was raped by a pedophile. He and the other kids were made to pose for videos. At first, they didn't want to push through with the legal case because they felt it was hopeless. If you hear that from a 14-year-old, it breaks your heart. After the Probe story, the kids felt encouraged. One pedophile was imprisoned."

BERNADETTE SEMBRANO

The GMA News Network
"The Probe Team" reporter, 2000-2003

For all the glamor associated with TV appearances, Bernadette Sembrano has one constant advise to students who interview her about her profession: "Don't become a journalist if you're just in it for personal gain."

Media, she has learned, is not about making big bucks, strange words coming from this Business Administration graduate and "Wish *Ko Lang*" host and fairy godmother. Sembrano was suspended from her GMA newscasting job shortly after she walked off a newscast when it was announced that the Probe Pagcor segment—which she worked on—was not airing that night. She looks back at the controversy philosophically.

"I shouldn't have reacted that way during the newscast. It was wrong and inappropriate. It was the wrong venue to do it, but I support the story and the documentation. I'm still with GMA. I've stopped asking myself where I'm happy. I'm asking God what He wants from me.

"Everything happens for a reason. Something like this builds your character. Now I realize that there are consequences if you do a story like this. With that in mind, I want to be a better journalist and pursue the things that Probe was fighting for."

ROBERT ALEJANDRO

Freelance graphic artist
"The Probe Team" reporter, 2000-2003

Aside from being a Clio awardee—the Oscars of the advertising agency—Robert Alejandro is an accomplished artist whose works include the Alabang Town Center facade, Glico's amusement park, the Star Mall, the Filipino Bookstores and several coffee table books. His designs are all over on the gifts and products sold at their family's popular country decor shop, Papemelroti.

He is also an accidental reporter. Unlike everyone else, he never fantasized about being on television and had no illusions about being popular. But somewhere between art and accident, a "Probe Team" reporter was born. Robert was invited to be a correspondent for "The Probe Team" 's sister show, "Gameplan" and his love for sports and challenges won out.

His initial television appearance—which required him to don a g-string and spend days learning indigenous sports with Northern tribesmen—convinced the Probe staff that he has the natural warmth and sincerity needed to be an effective reporter. And indeed, he has proven himself equal to Probe's expectations: climbing the hills of El Nido to gather birds' nests, documenting the wildlife in Agusan Marsh, joining performance artists in Baguio, becoming a nude subject for a painting session and risking hazing in pursuit of his stories.

"I did the light stories because I'm a light person," he says of his Probe stint. "The people here were very supportive. Once, we did a story about trash in Sikatuna Village. It took like 45 takes before I could get it right and this was under the intense heat of the sun. I wanted to cry and so did the camera man. Love (Añover, my producer) wanted me to memorize (a spiel in Tagalog). But I don't speak it well and I was nervous, and I thought that in her head, Love was probably thinking, 'This is the worst reporter I've ever handled.' Still, everyone kept saying, *'Kaya mo iyan, kaya mo iyan.'* (you can do it).

To page 7

Sembrano: "Everything happens for a reason"

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Charo ...from page 1

Group. One day a week, she's host of the multi-awarded 12-year-old drama anthology "*Maala-ala Mo Kaya*." Today, however, she's just Mom.

"I think I'm more like their buddy," Charo says when asked what kind of mother she thinks she is. "I can talk to them about anything under the sun. I put some order in their lives."

"I text her green jokes," volunteers Francis, to Charo's mild chagrin. "When my friends see that I can talk to my mom, they're surprised," seconds Martin. "They say, 'If that were my Mom, I'd be dead!'"

Throughout her years at the station, like her monicker on her show, Charo has become a support figure of sorts, a true "*Ate* Charo," the succor of employees with personal or professional problems. Among the network's leaders, "It's (chairman) Gabby Lopez who is the visionary. (President) Freddie Garcia is our mentor and tormentor," Charo laughs. "I balance things in the environment."

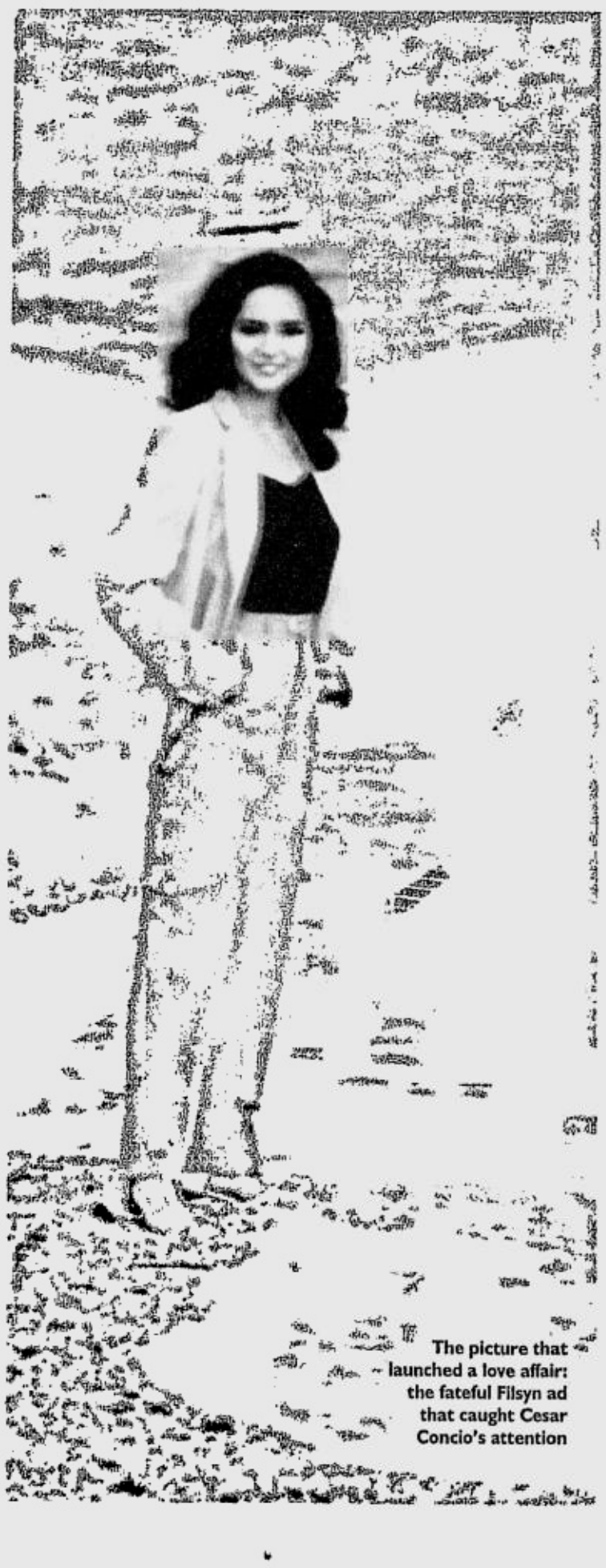
Charo was a greenhorn in TV production when she joined ABS-CBN 16 years ago. "I stayed because I was challenged," she says. "When I first came in, they thought I couldn't be of help because my background was cinema. They told me, you know cinema, but you don't know TV." Instead, she went on to dream up shows like "Home Along *Da Riles*" and "Showbiz Lingo"; she was the one who first spotted talents like Judy Ann Santos and Claudine Barretto. At the network's glittering 50th anniversary bash last October 17, Charo was beaming with the rest of the gods. "I feel so proud to have been part of it. I was a fan, I used to watch all those programs in the '70s, like 'D'Sensations.' My God, and now, I'm very much part of the celebration!"

She wasn't kidding on where her legendary gut feel came from, though. "Practice! I was a follower of TV shows when I was young. I was the audience. If I got *kilig* from love teams then, that's how young people will feel now. That's a universal feeling for a fan."

This fan was born Ma. Rosario Navarro Santos in Legaspi City, where her father, Winifredo Santos, was the government physician in charge of the local malaria unit. Her mother, Nora Navarro, was a schoolteacher; the two had met in college at the University of Santo Tomas. "She was a great singer, and had her own dreams, but my dad was so possessive."

Dad was equally conservative with his five daughters and one son; Charo was the second child. The family later moved to Calapan, Mindoro, and the bucolic childhood was spent climbing trees and playing with the neighbors' kids. In fact, Charo's first ambition was to become a nun. "They were my heroes when I was young. They looked so nice in their habits! Later I wanted to study medicine like my dad, but that was too expensive."

When the family eventually moved to Manila when the children were of college age, Charo enrolled in the next best course, nursing, but realized later she wasn't cut out for the vocation—"although my training helped when my boys came home with wounds and bruises," she laughs.



The picture that launched a love affair: the fateful Filsyn ad that caught Cesar Concio's attention

Instead, Charo studied communications at St. Paul's College and had her practicum at channel 9, where she first met Dolphy.

Charo already had a taste of the limelight through modeling, when she was discovered by designer Rikki Jimenez; it was her mother who convinced her father that it wasn't such a big deal. "I did experience some culture shock, though," Charo recalls. "I was a *probinsyana* who was suddenly mingling with city girls, and I would be so insecure sometimes I would cry. But it was only the first step that was hard. Once in a spot, I like to think I put my best foot forward."

Inevitably, the tall beauty got her share of suitors. "I knew how to handle them *naman*. I think I've always given out the signal that I'm, uh, boring," Charo laughs heartily. "I guess after a while, they realized I was just a naïve kid! Maybe I brought out the *tatays* (fathers) in them!" How old was she when she had her first boyfriend? "Eighteen," Charo answers, throwing a defensive glance at a snickering Francis. "Well, you started younger than I did!" Mom exclaims.

Charo would go on to join and win the Baron Travel Girl contest, then a renowned beauty-and-brains title. The attention led to a movie offer to appear in cinema wunderkind Mike de Leon's seminal horror film "*Itim*."

The acting did not daunt her, Charo recalls, because she was cast in a true-to-life role. "The transition was not so difficult because I played the role of a *probinsyana* from a small town. Perhaps Mike de Leon saw that in me." No *probinsyana* or city girl could have done a better job in the film's powerful final scene, however, where Charo's character is possessed by the spirit of her murdered sister. "Maybe I had so much angst that I didn't realize it was in me. I've always been an even-tempered person. Mike's instructions were just to keep within script. But even after he had yelled 'cut,' I was still breaking down, sobbing and sobbing."

Ironically, she wasn't even invited to the Asian Film Awards, where she was declared Best Actress for her debut. She can only laugh enigmatically when asked if her erstwhile Svengali had any romantic interest in her. "Well... Mike and I had so much respect for each other. He was my mentor. He taught me everything about perfection in production. He used to invite me to his post-production to watch him work. I didn't realize then that everything he taught me, I'd need later."

Her father's word was still law, however, and when he wouldn't allow her to pursue a full-blown showbiz career, Charo was all set to work at the United Nations in New York. "Before I started my job there, though, I came home first. I missed my dad. I felt so much awe for him, but we were not friends. When I got older, I realized I wanted to bridge the gap." Unfortunately, her father passed away while Charo was home, cementing her decision to stay in her homeland.

The move to get into production work in her next film with De Leon, the equally acclaimed "*Kisapmata*," was a planned one. "I knew I wanted something different, I didn't want to make acting my career. My first experience was line producing for '*Kisapmata*.' You ask yourself whenever you're into something new, *kaya ko ba ito* (Can I do this)? But friends support you, so you learn. I attract strict teachers and mentors in my life. But I guess the teacher is only as good as the student."

A more significant mentor would soon find his way into Charo's life. Cesar Concio first set eyes on her in a print ad for his company, Filsyn, in her early modeling days. It was far from a whirlwind affair, however; Charo laughingly calls it "an insidious courtship. It wasn't until five years after we met that I found out. Before that, we would only see each other at cocktail parties or events, about twice a year."

"*Ang bagal talaga ni* Daddy (Dad was so timid)!" interjects Francis.

And then, Concio, who was previously married to director Lupita Aquino (now Kashiwahara), followed Charo to Cannes, where the film's cast was doing the Film Festival. "I was so formal *pa*. I said, 'Mr. Concio, fancy meeting you here!'" Mr. Concio proceeded to show her around France, and his erudition blew her away. "What attracted me to him? There was always so much to talk about. I learned so much from him!" She knew she was in trouble when, after she came back to Manila and didn't hear from him immediately, she began to miss his company.

It wasn't the 24-year age gap that made Charo apprehensive; it was the fact that Concio had grown-up children from his previous marriage. Was the adjustment difficult? "Well... I'm a survivor," she says. "I'm sure we all had to make our own adjustments. I didn't care about being called the second wife. I guess when you're in love, you don't think about it. Then you realize, uh-oh, what did I get into!"

All's quiet on the homefront now, as her stepkids visit every Sunday. She's even friendly with the first Mrs. Concio. "No problem. We have our own lives, and we've both moved on." She wanted a baby right away to keep her occupied, so Francis was born soon after.

After 21 years, it's still a very comfortable marriage. "He lets me soar high, be my own person," Charo says of her husband with evident affection. "He's very proud of my achievements. He's never been high profile, and was always happy staying in the background." Concio, she reveals, is a fan of channel 2 telenovelas, and never hesitates to give his wife feedback. His main advice for her on work? "Enjoy yourself! Go with the flow!"

Charo shrugs away any insinuations that her marriage is over simply because her better half is not as visible as she is. "Well, I'm still not spared *intriga* and *chismis* (gossip). You can't be explaining yourself every day of your life. The best thing to do is to carry yourself with dignity—and *dedma* (ignore them)!"

Charo is happiest when she's traveling with her family and away from her regular routine. Her husband is a gourmet, while she occasionally craves for a really good *tinolang manok* (chicken stew). The couple also watches horror movies with their sons, "and Mommy always curses when she's surprised! *Nakakagulat nga, eh* (It can be disorienting)!" Francis butts in.

Charo indulges in the occasional home massage, and credits her fast metabolism for her figure—"although to my sons, I'm already flabby." "She doesn't exercise!" Martin complains. "I get on the treadmill," Charo corrects. "Yes, but once a month?" Martin retorts.

Professionally, Charo sees herself doing more of the same innovation at ABS-CBN, "because there are so many other ways to do it." Personally, she's keen on more quiet, constructive time for herself—reading, trying yoga. "Funny how you think you're not carrying a lot of baggage anymore, but you are. I still can't handle some of the things my husband has gone through. I used to be so much more emotional, crying over the smallest things that hurt my ego. When you get older and wiser, though, you realize that it's just a drop of water in the entire universe." No danger that she'll ever lose that lovin' feeling, though. "Maybe I'm not as emotional, but I'm still a very feeling person. I don't ever want to become jaded."

Family portrait: With husband Cesar and sons Francis (top right) and Martin

The winning team behind "*Kisapmata*" (left to right): Cesar Hernando, Jay Ilagan, Raquel Villavicencio, Mike de Leon, Charo, Vic Silayan and Doy del Mundo

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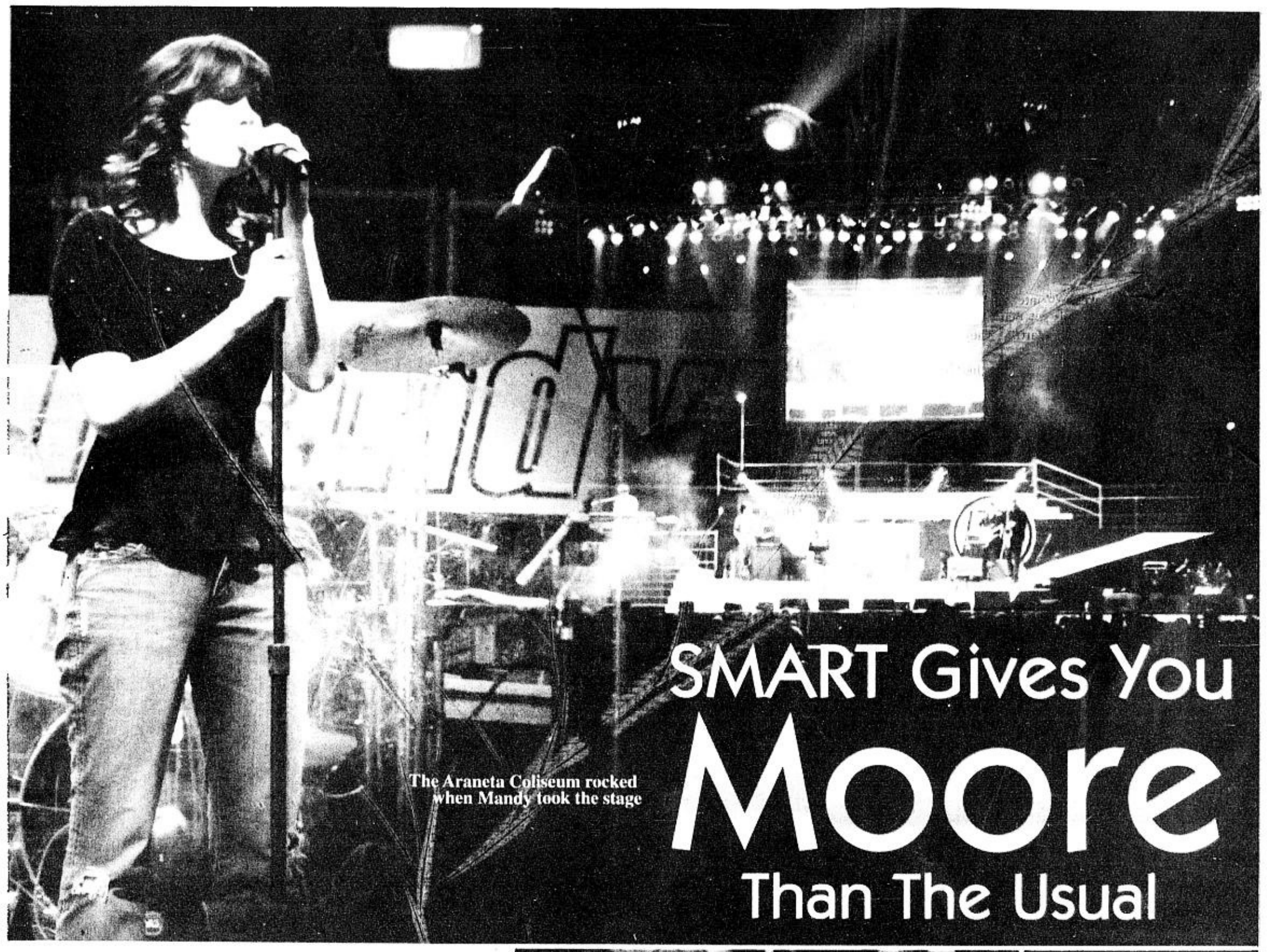

The Araneta Coliseum rocked when Mandy took the stage

SMART Gives You Moore Than The Usual

She sang just like all those times we've heard her on the radio and on CDs. But still, to see her, in flesh and blood, was truly a magical experience. There she stood in all her glory: Mandy Moore. An international superstar in music and film, and she's only 19!

As part of SMART S12zles, a year-end celebration for the over 12 million subscribers on the SMART Network, SMART welcomed the incomparable Mandy Moore for a series of concerts in Manila. A few lucky SMART Music Link subscribers (who downloaded Mandy Moore logos, ringtones and polytones) even got the chance to meet her in person.

One of them, Ariessa Estacio, couldn't believe it when she won. After downloading countless ringtones and logos, she was amazed when SMART told her she would meet the one and only Mandy. Her brother Don, though not a fan of pop music in general, is also a Mandy fan. Thus, the siblings were more than happy with Ariessa's good fortune.

What grabs your attention about the affable Ms. Moore (more than her pretty face or even her stunning height) is her down-to-earth charm. Despite the fact that she's being swarmed by journalists left and right, and that her concerts at the Araneta Coliseum and The Fort Open Field were packed to the rafters, she always introduced herself thus: "Hi, I'm Mandy." It's as if we've just met a stranger for the first time, not the star of the heart-warming blockbuster "A Walk to Remember" or the romantic "How to Deal".

With four hit albums to her credit, Mandy now looks to some hits from the 1970s and 1980s for her latest album "Coverage". Singing her chart-toppers "I Wanna Be With You", "Cry" and "Only Hope" have made her a star. Now, she wants to add more depth to her repertoire. She also headlined the first ever MTV Music Summit for AIDS, together with Parokya ni Edgar and MTV VJ Donita Rose. Lending her voice to such an important issue, Mandy proves there's more to this pop singer than meets the eye.

In the tradition of bringing international talents such as Boys II Men, Stephen Speaks, and Plumb to the Philippines, SMART Communications delivered this one of a kind spectacular. You can rest assured that SMART will continue to showcase world-class performances to our shores in the future!

Ariessa Estacio shows off her autographed poster from Mandy

These lucky SMART subscribers (from L to R: Don Estacio, Allan Ortega, Ariessa Estacio and Arnold Reyes) got to meet and greet their idol

Mandy is elated by flowers from a young fan

Here's Evangelista choosing out the SMART booth at Mandy's Araneta concert

Mandy shows there's Moore to the Amazing Phone

Advt.

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In Memoriam

By Lina Sagaral Reyes

Just Another Statistic

As Filipinos give world titleholder Manny Pacquiao a tumultuous welcome, the tragic passing of young boxer Freddie Gimay goes unnoticed

Gimay in fighting form

EVEN here in his hometown, not many know the boxer named Freddie Gimay. Maapag, the barangay where the Gimays live on a nameless unpaved street is about 45 minutes by motorcycle from the bus terminal in this fifth-class, two-year-old city of Valencia (pop. 160,000) in Bukidnon.

But "Amang" (the deaf-mute), Gimay's childhood monicker, briefly became a household name, at least among the residents of this remote barangay barely two months after the boxer turned 29. On October 27, Gimay got the fame that had eluded him throughout his five-year career.

According to news accounts, the boxer was knocked out early in the fight in Titay, Zamboanga del Sur and went into coma. The circumstances leading to his death are now under investigation by the Games and Amusements Board. In death, Gimay became the sacrificial lamb that brought to the fore the plight of amateur boxers and the lack of facilities and regulations that make boxing a high-risk sport in this country.

Freddie was not born a deaf-mute, says his younger brother Renan, 27. It was when he was 5, after a long bout with fevers of ambivalent origins, that the boy began to lose his sense of hearing while his tongue forgot the ways of speech.

"An overdose of drugs to quell the fevers and painkillers must have caused the deafness," said Jovy, Gimay's youngest sister. The family was still in Kabacan, North Cotabato then, and sustained by their father's trade as a mechanic.

But it was always easy to communicate with Freddie in a mix of gestures, grunts and groans. "In fact, we used to say that he was the noisiest and most loquacious deaf-mute in the whole world," Jovy remembers.

He could even sing when in good company, aided by a few drinks too many of the cheap Chinese wine called Kulafu. Or at least he could hum a tune with some help from the karaoke as during Jovy's wedding party last year.

The third of five children, Freddie, despite his disability, still went school until the fifth grade. He dropped out when his father was killed and the family had to move to Bukidnon where the Gimay clan, particularly an unmarried aunt, could provide a support system to the unemployed widow with five mouths to feed.

In 1998, when he was 24, Freddie started his boxing career. His initiation into the sport was a three-rounder at the Pulangui Sports Complex in Valencia City. He had since gone the rounds of the small-town boxing circuit, from Cotabato to Gensan, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and even Bangkok, Thailand.

His body was lithe as a cobra, describes Renan, when Freddie was at the prime of his youth. But by June this year, he had not fought for five to six months and had stopped his daily routine of keeping fit. As his sister would say, his three vices for the past months before his untimely death were: sleeping, eating and drinking. Thus, the cobra at 24 had grown into a drowsy python after a full-moon meal at 29. By then, there had been a string of losses and three managers in a row.

The day junior featherweight champion Manny Pacquiao was having the time of his life in a joyous victory parade in Manila for knocking out Mexican pugilist Antonio Barrera in Texas on Nov. 16, there wasn't much hint of mourning for Freddie in his own village. The rest of his family, including his mother had gone back to work in Saudi where she is a domestic helper. Sisters Rosalie and Melanie had left for Cagayan de Oro and Kabacan. Only Renan and Jovy were left to continue the daily prayers for the dead.

Even as Jovy had put up the four-foot Christmas tree and also hung a red lantern by the sala's rafters, on a low table was still a tableau of their brother's framed photo beside a cross, and a withered branch of *kalipay* (a native shrub) kept in an instant noodle styrofoam cup. Above, hangs a wreath of purple and yellow paper roses.

At the cemetery, the wreaths of paper flowers have all faded. "I still have to place more tiles on Manoy's 'mansion,'" says Renan. He hopes to finish the tomb on the 40th day of prayers on Dec. 6. He recalls how, at the funeral, he had to suppress the urge to batter his brother's manager to death. Had it not been for an uncle's intervention, he would have assaulted the man he blames for his brother's passing.

Renan didn't know that his brother had signed a contract to fight by end of October. He only knew that on October 7, the manager and his brother left together. He thought then that Freddie would train for two months because the latter was definitely not in fighting form.

But Amang himself was secretive about his own plans. Renan recalls that they only knew that his brother had been to Bangkok when he came home laden with gifts for the entire family.

Renan and the rest of the family believe that Amang was deceived, though some villagers also think he was just a victim of his own daring and his inability to understand a contract written in English.

He would have been drawn to the sport too, Renan admits, had it not been for his skills as a mechanic. Now he owns a small shop specializing in repairing and assembling farm machinery like threshers, tillers and tractors.

The small community of mostly Roman Catholics here are about to celebrate the feast of the Virgen de la Medalla Milagrosa. It was on a fiesta like this when Amang had his first taste of amateur boxing and won his first purse of P3,000.

But Renan doubts if anyone among the young men of Maapag would give boxing a try during the festivities. At least, not this year.

Perspective

By Recah Trinidad

RP Boxing Needs a Solid Punch

Young Filipino boxers regularly expose themselves to undue danger each time they fight with nothing more than eagerness and hunger to goad them

BEFORE Freddie Gimay there was Maruel Sayas who also died after being battered senseless inside the boxing ring. Before these two luckless figures, there was a line of other Filipino boxers who had suffered the same tragic fate.

Gimay, the latest victim, could've been saved had there been competent handling of the situation. For one, a more knowledgeable referee could've stopped the bout earlier once the victim had proved helpless against the opponent. It was also clear that there were no emergency facilities, like an ambulance or first-aid station, which are strict requirements in professional boxing bouts.

After the latest ring tragedy, the Games and Amusements Board (GAB) quickly announced it would conduct a probe. The GAB, by the way, made a similar move when Maruel Sayas died on April 24, 2001.

Records showed that Sayas had no business fighting in a 10-round professional bout the night he was knocked out before succumbing to brain injury hours after. He had after all last fought in May 2000; in fact, his license should've been automatically suspended after a year-long lay-off.

Prior to his fatal fight in Tarlac, he had also lost by stoppage four times in his last five bouts. Despite all that, he was irresponsibly pitted in that comeback bout against an awfully superior opponent, Alex Escaner, a third-ranked Philippine title contender.

It would become clear that the GAB had been at fault. But then, how expect this government body, directly under the Office of the President, to condemn itself?

The GAB, despite its good intentions, often functions like an aimless, timid counter-puncher that's unable to properly protect the interest and safety of Filipino fighters.

In the case of Sayas, the most responsible thing the GAB boxing division should've done was guide the victim in his bid to return to the demanding fight business. Allowing an obviously unfit, unfocused semi-retired boxer to fight a top-rated national title contender amounted to a criminal act. That fight should've been promptly disallowed.

Unfortunately, as in the case of Gimay, the latest victim, there was no responsible boxing body to prevent the fatal carnage.

Here at home, ill-informed boxers regularly expose themselves to undue danger each time they fight with nothing more than eagerness and hunger to guide and goad them.

And what could be more frustrating than the sight of old, shaky, fumbling fighters who, after long, ignorant years inside the ring, retire without having acquired the proper basics of the sport? As things stand, it's mostly to each his own as far as raising, training and preparing professional boxers are concerned.

But boxers are not fighting cocks. What's urgently needed is a competent body that would do the screening of all boxers before these poor, hungry aspirants are allowed to take out a professional license. That way, new boxers are at least assured that they are able to properly defend themselves inside the ring.

This, of course, is easier said than done. To come up with such a system, all boxing bodies must be informed and subsequently unified under a governing national agency. Promoters, managers, trainers, referees, stable owners and matchmakers, must be required to form their respective bodies.

These bodies should not only undergo regular evaluation by a national governing body, they must also be regularly briefed about their duties and responsibilities.

The GAB has under its wings the so-called Boxing Division that has its crew of doctors, evaluators, licensing officers, timers, etc. But, as had been explained and claimed, this GAB division at best functions as a licensing and supervising body. By its very nature, it's a very limited entity.

What's badly needed is the establishment of a body to govern and strictly guide the sport. Maybe President Arroyo can create a boxing authority, directly under her office, with the power to govern professional boxing in the Philippines. Big Asian boxing countries like South Korea, Japan and Thailand have their respective boxing commissions to seriously and strictly attend to the sport.

Past efforts to set up a similar boxing commission in the Philippines have failed due to Congress' inability to pass a bill sponsoring such a body.

But as an immediate safeguard, a boxing authority, once created by the President, could readily and effectively perform the functions of a boxing commission. In fact, the personnel currently employed in the GAB boxing division can be tapped for a more effective management and governance of boxing in the country.

Of course, for the proposed Professional Boxing Authority of the Philippines to function effectively, it must be run by a Board composed of competent and dedicated volunteers who don't have any vested interest in professional boxing hereabouts. A chief operating officer must also be appointed to oversee the functions and operations of the proposed authority.

There are more than enough people ready and willing to serve in the commission, if only to stop the carnage that's bound to happen every time a young inexperienced boxer steps into the ring, dreaming of gold and glory.

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Art

Biblikal, first installment of a series of visual works by Ricardo Gerri Dueñas, until Dec. 1 at the Big & Small Art Co., 4/L, SM Megamall A.

Collage of Art and Soul, a group exhibit featuring new paintings by Rommel Alejan, Fernando Escora, Hermisanto, Oying Madrillejos, Allan Malunez, Josephine Meffe, Pol Mesina, Jr. and Edwin Wilwayco for the benefit of White Cross Children's Foundation. Exhibit opens on Dec. 4, 6 p.m., at 713 J. Abad Santos corner Wilson St., San Juan City. For inquiries, call Janette or Gina at 724-2366/722-0411.

Tick Tock, Text Tox, Text Back, De Tox, a solo exhibit by Nelson E. Ferraris, until Dec. 12 at Syano Artlink, 19 Shanghai St., Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque City.

Fiesta, a collection of 30 watercolor and acrylic paintings by Anthony Fermin depicting festivities in various pueblos in the country at the Katipunan Art Gallery, 150 Katipunan Road, St. Ignatius, QC, until Dec. 15.

"Holy Rosary Church, Angeles City" by Anthony Fermin, on view at the Katipunan Art Gallery

Music

The Manila Chamber Orchestra Foundation closes the MCO Arts Festival 2003 with a special **pre-Christmas concert featuring the UST Singers** on Dec. 7, 4 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa Street, Makati City. The program will include pieces by Mendelsohnn, Pearsall, Lauridsen, Federizon, Francisco Santiago and many more. For tickets, call 818-1403 or 840-7000 loc. 2630 and 2258.

Onstage

Gantimpala Theater Foundation stages **Grethology**, a musical production about wonderful heroes and damsels in distress, and Greek gods and goddesses on Dec. 5-7, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the St. Cecilia's Hall of the St. Scholastica's College; Dec. 12-14 at the RFC Cinema Theater in Las Piñas, and on Jan. 16-18, Feb. 6-8 at the AFP Theater in Quezon City. For inquiries, call 899-5745 or 896-3503.

Dulaang UP presents Moliere's **The Imaginary Invalid**, a comedy about a hypochondriac who is happy being miserable. Cast includes Roy Alvarez, Richard Cunanan, Frances Makil-Ignacio, Romnick Sarmenta, Fonz Deza and Tony Mabesa. The play runs until Dec. 14 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, 2/F, Palma Hall, UP Diliman. For tickets, call 926-1349.

Atbp

Solaenum Publishing Manila is sponsoring the **book launching** of Ana Ablaza Baluyut's ***Sa Laylayan ng Saya*** to be held at the Chateau 1771 Restaurant, El Pueblo, Pasig on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. (by invitation only). Poetry readings by Dr. Cirilo Bautista and Ramil Gulle are among the highlights of the dinner/launch.

The UP Institute of Creative Writing celebrates its silver anniversary with **Writers' Week** which will run from Dec. 1-5 at the Atrium of the new CAL building. There will be programs, exhibits, film showings, special performances to highlight the achievements of the honorees and the inauguration of the new CAL building. The affair will culminate with a Writers' Day featuring a book fair, flea market, occult readings, henna tattooing, individual and

Butch ...from page 2

who later became his wife: "He was very smart and witty and when we'd go carolling to raise funds, he'd sing solo and dedicate his songs to me. *Kilig talaga ako* (I would swoon)!"

Their activism escalated during the martial law years and in 1978, Butch was arrested and detained at Fort Bonifacio and Bicutan for leading a protest march against the fraudulent elections that saw former Sen. Benigno Aquino losing a run for Congress. His cellmates included Vice President Teofisto Guingona and the late Sen. Lorenzo Tanada.

In 1980, he and wife Dina were again arrested and subsequently put under house arrest for advocating human and trade union rights. Their year-old firstborn, Julia, joined them in the Ateneo grounds where the Jesuits kept them for more than a year in what passed for a house arrest.

Resisting martial law was nothing new to him, he says. His father who lived and breathed politics, followed the Liberal Party's line when it decided to withdraw from politics to protest the Marcos decree. "But I guess being out of his usual milieu drained him of his energy and zest for life," Butch says of his father's death at age 69.

That is a spectre that he himself has to face, admits this Liberal Party president. This being his last term, he is casting about for his successor in the House. His wife seems to be a logical choice, given Batanes' filial politics, except for a major factor: she won't hear about it. "*Wala na bang iba*? (Is there no one else?)," sighs Dina who, as Dean of the Ateneo School of Government, has her hands full running an academic program, finding funds for deserving scholars and faculty, as well as networking with NGOs and allied government agencies. Besides, she says, "I'm not cut out to be a politician's wife; I'm too transparent. I can't smile at people I hate. And pushing 50, do you think I can still change?"

Choosing his wife would open Butch to another charge—that of building his own political dynasty, an antithesis of everything he had stood for. Indeed, when he recently proposed that legitimate political parties be allowed to field their own party list nominees, Butch got it from the sectoral representatives who called such proposal a throwback to traditional politics. He defends the proposal, however: "It's been 15 years since the sectoral representative idea was implemented and that period was meant to give party lists ample time to strengthen themselves and organize their own political parties. By remaining as sectoral reps, they are still excluded from mainstream politics and are considered second class citizens in the House. It's only when they compete in the real arena with other political parties will they learn to shape up."

As to fears that party list groups won't survive the Guns, Goons and Gold character of mainstream politics, Butch counters: "Today's politics has changed. The NGOs and civil society have become major players, the media exert a powerful influence, the voters have become younger, and younger politicians have emerged who want to change the system as well. Politics now is evolving—for the better."

His children are his best example, Butch cites, adding that the family dinner table has become some sort of sounding board, with his four children—Julia, 25; Pio, 20; Luis, 17, and Patsy, 14—mouthing off on current issues without fear or favor for Dad. "They're very opinionated," he says proudly of the four's enthusiasm to be part of history.

In fact, Patsy already is. Then 11, she just happened to be around when GMA was sworn in at noon at the Edsa Shrine in 2001. Butch and Dina had marched on to Mendiola and, anticipating trouble with the Estrada camp, had left their youngest daughter with some nuns at the Shrine. And that was how Patsy, in T-shirt and rubber shoes, ended up holding the Bible for GMA's oath-taking.

While politics has been his life these 49 years, Butch already has his retirement all carved out. Literally. Stacked somewhere in his friends' garage or in their garden where wife Dina can't complain that they're messing up the house, are four 10-wheeler trucks' worth of old wood salvaged from demolished houses or washed ashore all over Northern Luzon. He has always been enamored with woodwork, says Butch who has coaxed form and function from discarded materials. Proof of his carpentry skills are everywhere in his Quezon City home. There is the long lounge chair carved out of a single tree trunk in his lush garden, the rough-hewn bookshelf, the family dining table, chairs and wooden sofa in matching austere design, and a center table so wide and sensuously polished it invites fantasies of debauchery.

More than just being environmentally sound, the woodworking hobby well affords Butch time by himself, giving him the privacy he missed most in his politics-soaked childhood. But trust the guy to make a career of any undertaking. Aside from building sister artist Pacita Abad's house in Batanes, he's also surfing the Net for a good master carpenter he can become apprentice to. Well definitely, no half-measures for the man.

By Jess Abrera

Patay

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

group singing and performances. The other activities are the double launching of "The Likhaan Book of Poetry and Fiction 2001" and "Ang Aklat Likhaan ng Tula at Maikling Kuwento 2001," and the presentation ceremonies of the Third Madrigal-González Best First Book Award, won by F.H. Batacan for the novel "Smaller and Smaller Circles."

The International Mountain Bicycling Association through its Philippine Representative, Atty. Gregorio Larrazabal will hold a bike-specific flea market called ***Bisikletiangge*** on Dec. 6 and 7, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Alvero cor. B. Gonzales St., North Xavierville, Katipunan, QC (near Ateneo University). The event will feature all kinds of mountain and road bikes, parts and accessories and clothing. There will also be slightly used goods at affordable prices. Also featured is an auctioning of cycling items and memorabilia plus a film showing of various classic European road races and mountain bike videos. Proceeds of the event will go to the Bike Club Development Fund. For details, e-mail glarrazabal@pacific.net.ph.

The **Industrial Hygienists Association of the Philippines** (IHAP), Inc. will celebrate its 1st National **Annual Convention & Foundation Anniversary** on Dec. 4-5 at the Bayview Park Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. This year's theme is "Industrial Hygiene: An Emerging Role of an OSHE Professional," in which IHAP is committed to continuously provide opportunities to all qualified individuals to become future professional industrial hygienists, and help promote and maintain the occupational and environmental health and safety of Filipino workers. For details, call Ney Granadillos or Jessie S. Dela Cruz at 929-6036 to 39.

The Outlet Yard is hosting a **Christmas *Tiangge*** featuring bargain designer and imported goods at factory outlet prices. The mall is extending its hours to accommodate office workers who prefer to shop after office hours. On December 23, there will be a midnight sale. Shoppers can also learn origami Christmas card and decors, and art lessons on Dec. 7, 14 and 21 for a minimum fee of P150. The Outlet Yard is an outdoor mall in Quezon Avenue (near the corner of Scout Borromeo) For details on the Christmas art workshops, call Eleanor Yu at 740-7221.

The City of Manila and the Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company, in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, present the **Manila International Folk Dance Festival** on Dec. 3-7 in various venues in Manila. The festival is a showcase of various cultural traditions in folk dance and music by nine delegations from China, Italy, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Spain, Thailand and the Philippines. The festival will open on Dec. 4 with a parade at 4 p.m. on Roxas Boulevard followed by the performance of all participating delegations at 8 p.m. at the Rajah Sulayman Plaza. It will close with a special concert featuring the nine delegations, including the Bayanihan Philippine National Folkdance Company, in an extravaganza of folk dances and music on Dec. 7, 3 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino. Tickets priced at P200 with special discounts for groups. For tickets, call the CCP Marketing at 832-3878 local 807, CCP Box Office at 832-3704, Ticketworld at 891-5610 and Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company at 525-1685 and 526-2126.

A **Basic Video Production seminar** will be held on Dec. 7 at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. For reservations, call 823-2615. Reservations accepted until Dec. 6.

Now touring various shopping malls is **Garfield's Yuletide Styles and Colours**, a musical fashion event showcasing the latest designs by Luming Pantig for Garfield garments for kids. Games and trivia questions are also featured as part of Garfield's treat to its patrons. Garfield garments are available at all leading department stores nationwide.

X-manila

The Farm at San Benito, a modern alternative medical facility and luxury spa in Lipa, Batangas, celebrates its first year with a special promotion. Treat yourself to a unique health vacation at The Farm while enjoying 30 percent off regular rates until Dec. 20. Trained staff members will introduce guests to a unique concept of healthier living, weight loss and cleansing of the body and mind. For details, call 728-2451 or 696-3175 or email info@thefarm.com.ph.

Probing ...from page 3

CHECHE LAZARO

Executive Producer
One of the original founders

Fourteen years as The Probe Team's frontrunner and Cheche Lazaro has earned lifetime respect and admiration. And why not? "Untarnished credibility, genuine compassion and daredevil guts" are just some words that people use to describe the qualities that make this teacher at heart nothing short of a broadcasting phenomenon.

Definitely a hands-on producer, she has climbed Mt. Apo, trekked the depths of the Palawan jungle in search of the Tau't Bato tribe and worked as a bus conductor for a full day as part of her stories for Probe. Then there's that question few other broadcasters would dare ask a senator but she did: Was she paid for her dance number during the impeachment trial, Cheche asked Estrada supporter Tessie Aquino Oreta.

But no question is too absurd, irreverent or intrusive when it comes to ferreting out the truth and making a difference. "Our goal, when we began, was to be a positive contribution to the industry," Cheche recalls. "From the beginning, we wanted to be different, to go deeper. We wanted to be based on case studies on a person's life. If we talk about criminality and injustice, we wanted to see it from a person's point of view. We wanted the feel factor, the personal account of (someone), not just the body count. To impact the audience so they could take action. We wanted people to realize that they could do something if they wanted to do it.

"There is no one star. The star is the story. I (still) want to do a story on the triumph of the Filipinos here. It's a recurring theme. There are heroes whose stories deserve to be told. You have to look for them because these heroes don't call the press."

Zamora and Alejandro: Rapport, not money

Well, she should know. Cheche is the granddaughter of Gen. Vicente Lim, the first Filipino West Point graduate who held the Abucay line of defense during World War II and was beheaded by the Japanese for refusing to betray military secrets.

But more than the past, Cheche looks to the future. "There have been several offers, but I have not made a final decision. Television is our life, and whether it is here or elsewhere, it will continue," says the youthful-looking wife of finance consultant Delfin Lazaro and mother of Liza, 33, and Charlie, 24.

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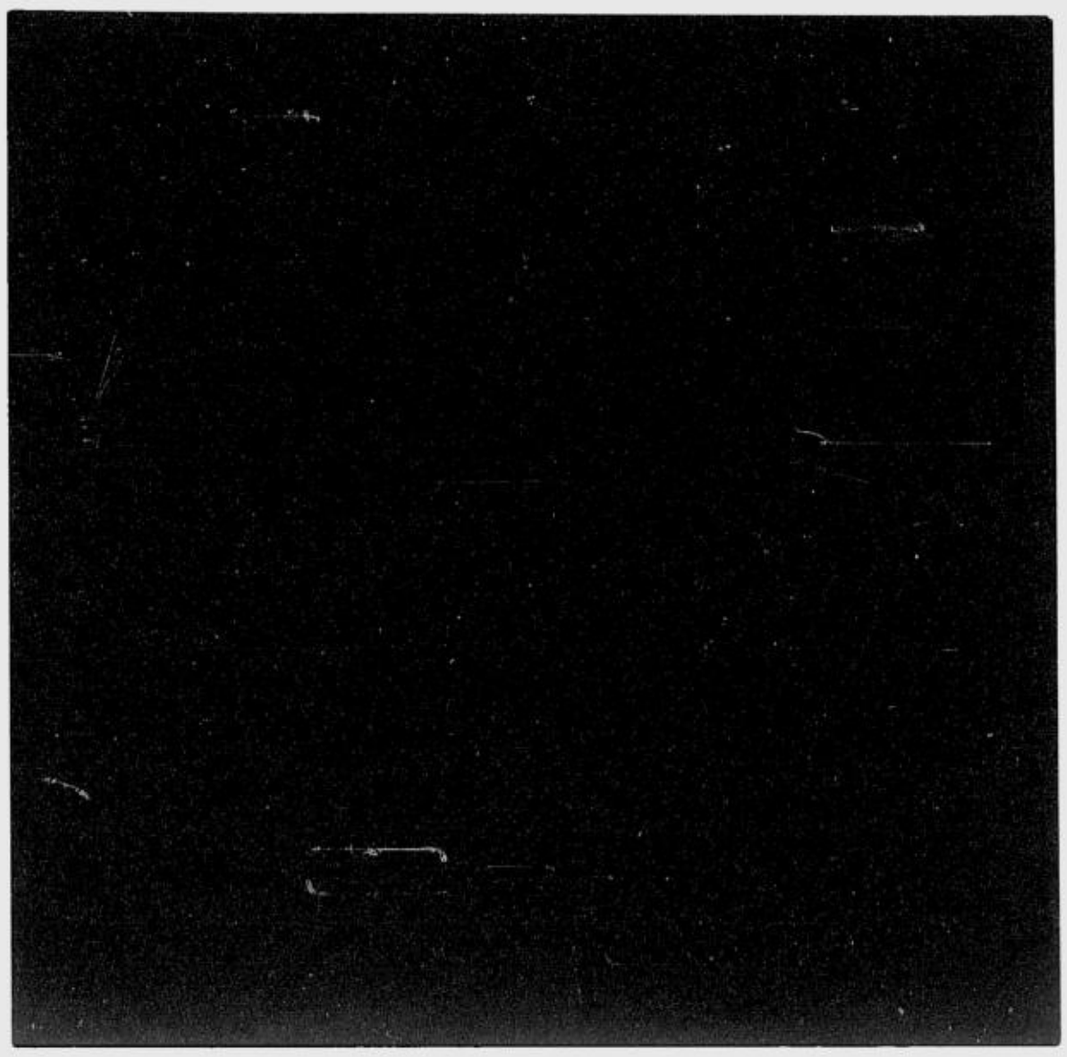

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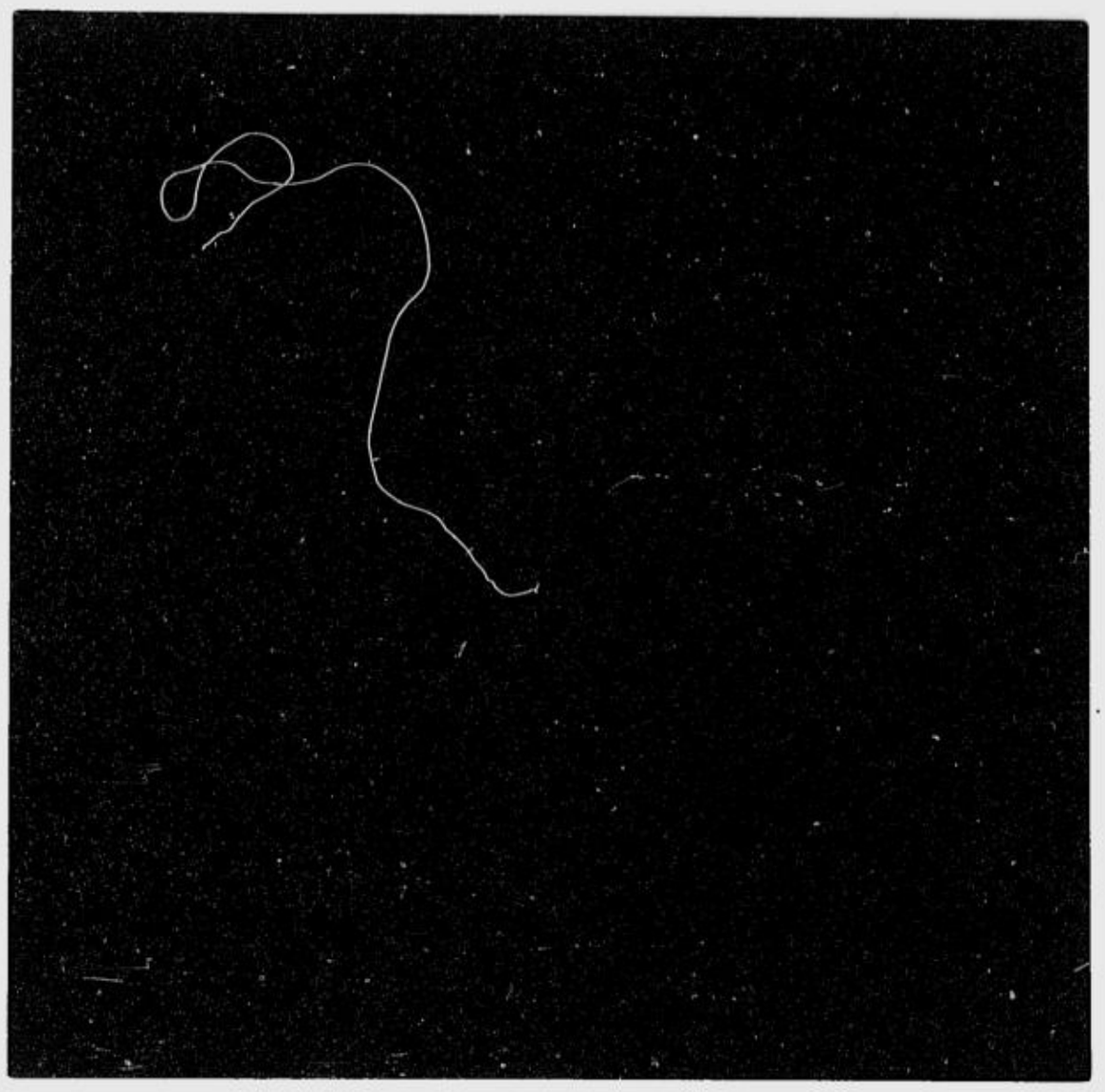

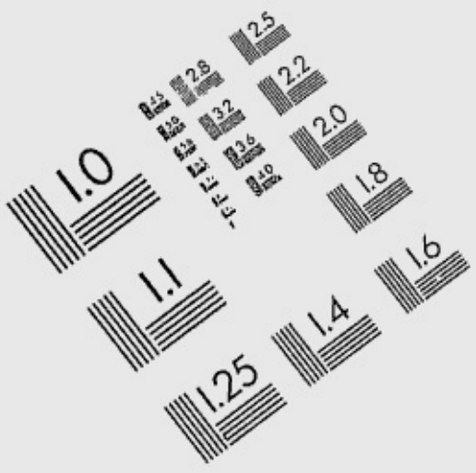

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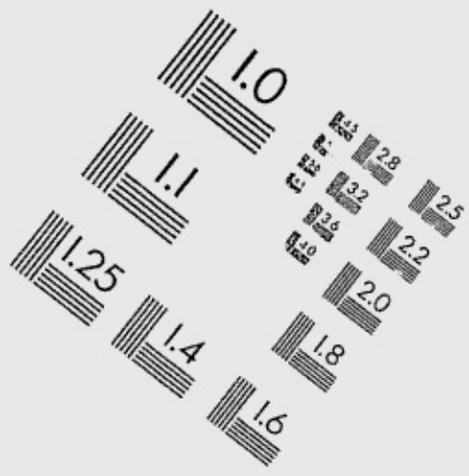

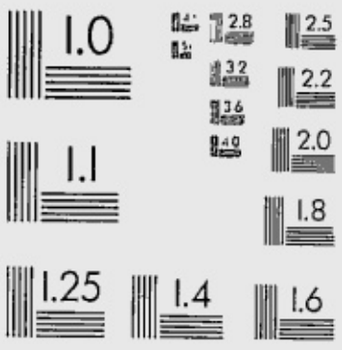

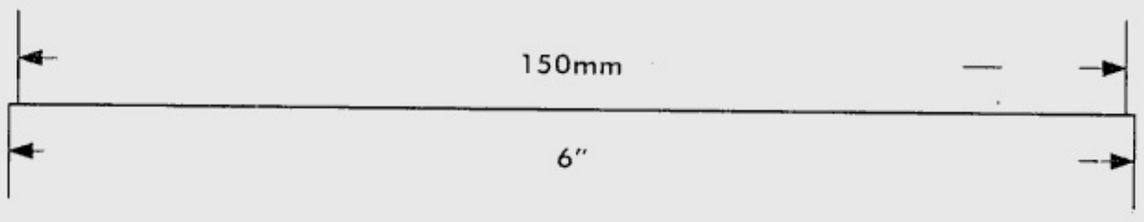

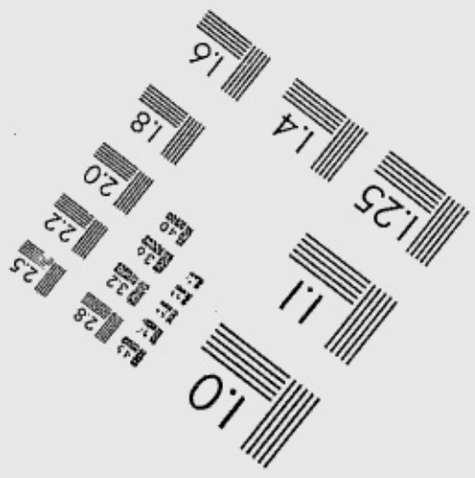

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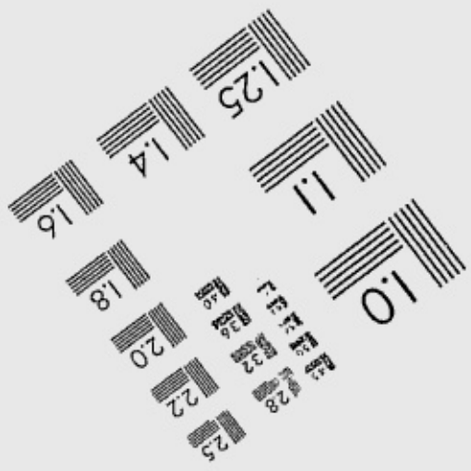

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